

THE JOURNAL

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Sports El Cerrito Pony League keeps it together [B1]

Opinion Our Man About Town goes out to the Bulb [A4]



HISTORIAN WARREN LEE sat in the Eighth Street Cafe in University Village and explained the content of his upcoming book 'The Selective History.'

New book recounts 'Great Train Robbery,' other local lore

By James Carter

On Nov. 7, 1930, passengers in Berkeley boarded a commuter train bound for Tracy.

It was the Southern Pacific Railroad, train No. 36.

Everything seemed in order for the most part—pretty routine, in fact. Yet there were some strange folks who climbed on board the train at the Berkeley Station. People would find out more about them than they'd care to know soon enough.

In addition to passengers, train No. 36 carried a payroll of \$60,000. That was a

lot of money in those days. Still is. And the notorious Smith Gang—including the mysterious men that boarded the train in Berkeley—had plans for that loot.

Train No. 36 lumbered away down the tracks heading north, its first stop Richmond. But passengers noticed something peculiar was going on when it made an unscheduled stop at Noble Station—an abandoned location built where apartment towers and condos now wrap around the base of Albany Hill.

Other members of the gang lay in

See HISTORY, Page A15

City takes signal to control Marin traffic

AHS science students honored

By James Carter

ALBANY — The City Council met on a warm summer night Monday, and yet things were pretty cool for the first time in months.

One item on the agenda created a stir—only one. That was a unanimous resolution honoring science students from Albany High School who came in fifth May 3 at the National Science Fair in Washington, D.C.

As Caleb Lo, Alexander McCormach, Peter Rudiak-Gould, Seth Teitler and Victor Tsai accepted awards presented by Mayor Peggy Thomsen, the gallery erupted into applause as several individuals giving the math-and-science prodigies a standing ovation.

Just one wrong answer—that's what knocked them out of the competition. But then again, even Albert Einstein failed to develop a workable unified field theory.

Science teacher and club sponsor Richard Lohman said it all when he proclaimed "These, indeed, are a group of fine young men."

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EC repair list: How far to go?

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — Hold onto your wallets, it's going to be a bumpy ride. The numbers are firming up and one thing is clear—it won't be cheap to fix the city's maintenance-deferred parks and recreational facilities.

The Services for the 21st Century Committee of the Whole heard a report from a subcommittee about a recent meeting with Park and Recreation Commission representatives to discuss repair and renovation costs and priorities.

Last week, Committee of the Whole co-chair and subcommittee member

Anne Delehunt presented the subcommittee's report to the general group. The report noted that Park and Recreation Commissioners Brenda Navellier and Jan Bridges provided the group with "a new short list of priorities" and approximate

See REPAIR, Page A15

Readying for July Fourth celebrations



THE 'SIGN SHOP' for the El Cerrito July 4 Fair is in the garage of Rotarian Glenn Davis, right, who is getting a hand with preparations from fellow club member Verne Odlin. Davis designed the familiar July 4 Fair logo that has appeared on T-shirts and signs for the past eight years.

EC promises something for everyone

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence; there was no turn-

ing back in our war with George III and our experiment in democracy. On the 223rd anniversary of that vote, El Cerritos young and old will get together to celebrate with hamburgers, reggae, frog jumping and bouncing machines. The

eighth annual July 4 Fair, organized and hosted as usual by the Rotary Club of El Cerrito, promises to be the best yet. There will be about 60 booths with local crafts

See FAIR, Page A15

Family fun focus of Albany celebration

JOURNAL STAFF

ALBANY — This year's Fourth of July celebration at Memorial Park plans to "go back to the future," according to Vice Mayor Jon Ely.

"We're going to celebrate the Fourth

the way our parents used to," Ely said.

For months volunteers have developed a good old-fashioned July Fourth celebration, one that begins with a traditional pancake breakfast sponsored by the Lions Club at 7:30 a.m.

"The big difference this year is the Fourth will be much more family-oriented," Ely said.

Prior to the official kick-off, there will

See CELEBRATE, Page A15



Torch Run

INVESTIGATIONS SGT. GARY Priebe, Detective Jeff Albrandt and Sgt. Dan Hurley of the El Cerrito Police Department, and Contra Costa County Deputy Probation Officer Edy Elias worked up a sweat last week participating in the Special Olympics Torch Run. The officers took turns carrying the torch north along San Pablo Avenue as part of a nationwide effort by law enforcement officers to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics. The torch was handed-off to ECPD officers at the Albany-El Cerrito border and they relayed it 2.5 miles to the Richmond border. In ceremony in front of the Public Safety building, Mayor Gina Brusatori proclaimed June 16 "Torch Run Day in El Cerrito." Priebe and the other officers were cheered on by friends and family who had gathered near City Hall to attend the ceremony and encourage the runners.

PHOTO: STEVE MASLANKA



Reggie Patterson

Young musician bound for Italy

Reggie Patterson, 16, will play music in Italy this summer. Patterson was one of 40 young musicians selected to attend the Adriatic Chamber Music Festival in the central Italian region of Molise this summer. The festival sponsors provided \$1,000 of the estimated \$4,000 needed to attend the program and Patterson and his family, friends and supporters raised the rest.

The music festival runs from mid-July to mid-August and students live

a two-story 16th century Franciscan monastery while attending and giving music classes and performances. Patterson is one of the first two African-Americans accepted into the program. He began playing the violin in kindergarten, took up the viola in 8th grade, and currently attends (on scholarship) the prestigious Branson School in Marin County where he will be a senior next year.

Patterson is a member of the El Cerrito NAACP Youth Council and

UC Berkeley's competitive Young Musicians Program and other local youth groups. Last fall he auditioned and was accepted into the San Francisco Youth Orchestra. In 1997 Patterson won the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation Scholarship Award. He raised money to attend next month's Italian music program by such doing such things as holding a benefit concert with friends at a Berkeley church earlier this month.

Woman successfully resists purse snatchers

EL CERRITO — Near 1 p.m. May 26, an African American male approximately 5-foot-9 inches tall with a dark complexion and a heavy build snatched a purse from a 76-year-old woman as she bent down to pick up her keys. The thief, described as being in his mid-30s, escaped in a faded red Pontiac Firebird.

■ A train robber tossed a rock through the window of Kit & Caboodle May 27, gaining entry to the Plaza store and snatching two electric train sets from the window valued at \$306.

■ At the Walgreens Drug store on San Pablo Avenue May 30, a man in his mid- to late-20s stuffed toiletries into his trousers. Smelling trouble, a store employee confronted the thief and demanded he fetch the goods and return them to the shelf. The foul fugitive refused and bolted out the door.

■ On June 3, a thief with time of his hands attempted to extract a window panel from the side door of a house on the 900 block of Norvell Street. Despite sticky fingers his efforts failed and he fled.

■ Just before midnight June 4, a 25-year-old woman heard glass shattering in the parking lot of her apartment building on the 10900 block of San Pablo Avenue. She spotted the silhouette of a man as he slipped away in the dark and immediately

phoned police. They soon apprehended a 21-year-old man with burglary tools in his possession, who quickly confessed to the burglary. As police examined the scene of the crime, they discovered yet another automobile burglarized in the exact same manner.

■ A vandal shattered the window of a car parked on the 800 block of Shevlin Drive sometime between June 5 and 6.

■ At 11:27 a.m. June 8, two boys in their late teens/early 20s attempted to snatch a 77-year-old woman's purse as she walked across the parking lot of Rite Aid. However, though a strap snapped, the elderly lady tenaciously held on to her bag and the thieves gave up and fled.

■ An unknown pickpocket pinched a woman's wallet from her shopping cart as she shopped at Rite Aid the afternoon of June 9.

■ Two 16-year-old Asian males assaulted a 14-year-old Asian boy on the 10700 block of San Pablo Avenue June 9. Police say the crime may be gang related.

■ Near midnight June 9, a 26-year-old man washed dishes in the kitchen sink of his home on the 5000 block of Cypress Avenue. Suddenly a man with a handgun appeared outside the kitchen window and started blasting, pumping 13 rounds of ammo into the house. Incredibly, the

POLICE REPORT

assailant's target was unharmed. ■ A boy barely in his teens ran up onto the hood of an automobile driven by a 64-year-old woman June 10 on the 600 block of Everett. The woman hollered at him to get down, he scaled the roof then jumped down the back, leaping to the ground from the trunk.

■ A 32-year-old male sexually assaulted a 24-year-old female in the way parking lot at 6:45 a.m. June 10.

■ A 41-year-old woman lost merchandise she purchased at Target Stores into her automobile on the night of June 11. An intoxicated man clutching a bottle in one hand, proached her. When she asked to leave, the drunken man punched her in the face then ran.

■ While investigating a "bribe" between a man and a woman, police stopped a couple near the corner of Arlington Avenue and Bay near 1:45 a.m. June 13. The couple were indeed disturbed; police covered 13.2 grams of methamphetamine in their possession.

NOTE

The Albany police report will return next week.

Farmers Market has moved to new location at El Cerrito Plaza

Shoppers are being reminded that the popular El Cerrito Plaza Farm-

ers Market, which celebrates its fifth anniversary this month, is moving to

the south side of the Plaza parking lot, sections J-4 and J-5, near Kains Avenue entrance. The move marks the beginning of Phase 1 of the Plaza renovation project.

The El Cerrito Farmers Market was started with a Tuesday market five years ago by the El Cerrito Merchants Association to help bring in traffic to the center, which had customers and stores after the portum closed.

Some three years ago a Saturday market was added.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Plaza design review

El Cerrito's Design Review Board has rescheduled consideration of the El Cerrito Plaza revitalization project. The review session, originally scheduled for yesterday, has been moved to today at 7:30 p.m. at the Open House Senior Center, 6500 Stockton Ave.

Summer concerts

Starting Wednesday, July 7 at noon, the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and the Richmond Redevelopment Agency transform downtown Richmond into a summer concert stage featuring a mélange of traditional and contemporary music and dance by EBCCA's performance ensembles. Enjoy your lunch while soaking in the sounds of summer. The dates are July 7, Richmond BLOCCO; July 21, Jazz Collective; Aug. 4, Mexican Music and Dance with Son de la Tierra; Aug. 16, Afro-Brazilian Music and Dance with Corpo Santo; and Sept. 1, Afro-Cuban Music and Dance. Time is noon to 1:15 p.m. at the Richmond Enterprise Center, 12th and MacDonald Avenue, Richmond, three blocks from Richmond BART. For more information call 234-4864.

Library summer fun

Don't miss the upcoming summer reading game and twilight programs at the Albany Library. The free game board will be available beginning this week and continuing through Aug. 14. Spinning and stamping

of the board will begin the week of June 21. All twilight summer programs, sponsored by the Friends of the Albany Library, begin at 7 p.m. Children get priority seating. First up, Yo Yo Lady Returns on Tuesday, June 22. A school-age film series will be announced. Details: 526-3720.

UC Theatre birthday gala

Wednesday, June 30, marks the 82nd birthday of the beloved UC Theatre at 2036 University Avenue in Berkeley. The UC celebrates this amazing milestone with free birthday cake, ice cream and two spectacular films starring the lovely Judy Garland, *The Wizard of Oz* (new beautiful print in Technicolor) showing at 7:00 and *A Star is Born* (in Cinemascope) at 9:05 and 9:20. You're in for quite a treat when you see this classic double feature at the UC Theatre, where the films are presented as their directors intended, reel to reel, and on the big screen. Immediately preceding the 7 show of *The Wizard of Oz* is the short film *Precious Images*, Chuck Workman's stirring homage to the cinema. After the 7 show, the proud staff of the UC Theatre will be serving everyone free cake and ice cream in the lobby, a small token they say, of their continued admiration for the loyalty of our patrons over the years. The UC Theatre is located at 2036 University Ave. within minutes of BART and freeways. Tickets are \$6.75 for general admission and \$4.75 for seniors, children, and the disabled. Those who attend the first show of the day, or any show

beginning before 3:30 p.m., can take advantage of our bargain matinee price of \$4.75. Details: 510-843-FILM.

ECDC meeting

Juliette Beck, Coordinator of the California Fair Trade Campaign, will be the guest speaker at the Tuesday, June 29 meeting of the El Cerrito Democratic Club. She will present the challenge of global trade expansion vs. protection for workers and the environment, hoping for compromises leading to improved human rights and living standards. The business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Northminster Presbyterian Church at 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, across from El Cerrito High. For details call Rolf M. Weber at 524-6142, fax 527-6212, e-mail Rweber1016@aol.com.

Preschool applications

Applications for Albany Preschool's 1999 Summer School are now available at the preschool. The eight-week session begins June 21 and ends Aug. 13. There is a morning parent co-operative program (9 a.m. to noon) and an afternoon non-parent participation program (noon to 3 p.m. or noon to 5 p.m.). It is possible to sign up for mornings, afternoons, or both. Albany Preschool, 850 Masonic

Ave., is also currently enrolling students for its Fall 1999 Afternoon Non-Parent Participation Program. Details: 527-6403.

Bach recital

The Church of St. David of Wales, 5641 Esmond Ave., Richmond, presents Simon Berry in a recital of music by J.S. Bach on Friday, July 2. The program includes *Air* on the G string; *Come Gentle Death*; *Fugue in G minor*; *Prelude in E Flat* on the gallery and antiphonal organs. Organ concerts are given each first Friday of the month at 11:15 a.m., lasting 45 minutes. Everyone is welcome. Choral and solo recitals are also a regular feature of the music program. Benediction at noon follows the organ recitals. Call 237-1531 for additional information or for directions.

Pyramid Cinema Festival

Pyramid Brewery on Gilman Street continues a summer tradition with its third annual Saturday night Outdoor Cinema Festival. The festival begins on Saturday, July 10 and runs for twelve consecutive weeks, with all film events shown in the giant Brewery parking lot at Ninth and Gilman Streets. The films will be projected on one wall of the open-air lot. Shows begin at dusk. To kick off the 1999 festival, Rocky Horror Picture Show screens on Saturday, July 10. Audience participation is a must.

Audience participants are asked to bring their own seating for the showings in the Brewery parking lot. Rolling sofas, four poster beds, recliners, auto bucket seats, or a comfortable canoe can serve a seating possibilities. Patrons are encouraged to come in costume and to keep an eye out for special contests through the summer. The showings are "almost free," with a \$5 donation requested. Call 627-9090 for additional information.

Children's Theatre

The Bay Area Children's Theatre Festival is at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., through Nov. 28, with performances on July 18, 25 and Aug. 1 at 11 a.m. The festival conceived and organized by veteran theatre director/producer Peter Trip, is the first Bay Area Children's Theatre Festival running almost year-round. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children and may be purchased at the door. The first four Sundays of every month, for six months, the same performers will be at the center to entertain, excite and thrill with their theater magic. Free admission for any child or adult on their birthday. For more information call 525-3948.

Okawichi nominated by mayor for state recognition

ALBANY — Mayor Peggy Tewsen recently nominated Albany Jewell Okawichi for the Governor's Citizen Service Award.

The commendation will recognize an individual for voluntary community service.

Gov. Gray Davis recently won the award.



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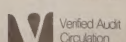


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AC Transit may up fares to add, restore bus routes

Public hearings set on proposed 10-cent increase, other changes

By Robert Oakes

OAKLAND — A proposed 10-cent increase in bus fares would add to the fare increase in 1996, AC Transit announced Monday.

The bus agency will conduct public hearings June 30 on the fare increase, plus a 20-cent increase effective in early 2000 for TransBay buses between the East Bay and San Francisco.

Fares for adults and youths 13 to 18 would go from \$1.25 to \$1.35. Those fares were last raised in May 1985, when the TransBay fare would go from \$2.50 to \$2.70.

AC Transit cut night and weekend local service in 1996 because of budget woes.

"We were in the middle of major problems at the time," said spokesman Mike Mills.

Some old service could be restored, and new routes available with fare increase and expanded financial reserves, Mills said.

Proposals include starting a bus line to connect southern Alameda County job centers with the Altamont Commuter Express train at a Centerville station in Fremont.

Bus frequency would increase from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes on Line 376, a night route between West Contra Costa that links North Richmond and Parchester Village with job sites and medical services.

Service would expand on the 52, 53 and 64 in Berkeley and Albany, where more passengers are expected with a UC-Berkeley pass being offered in the fall. Line 9 would be restored to connect the North Berkeley BART station with the popular North Street shopping and restaurant district in Berkeley.

Other services could start after Labor Day, including restored "night owl" service across the Bay Bridge and the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco.

The Transbay Comprehensive Service Plan would introduce more

BREAKOUT

■ Proposal: 10-cent increase in base fare (currently \$1.25) in 1999 and 20-cent increase in TransBay fare (currently \$2.50) next year.

■ Public Hearings: 3 and 6 p.m. June 30, AC Transit Board Room, 1600 Franklin St., Oakland.

■ Comments: District Secretary, 1600 Franklin St., Oakland, CA 94612; fax, 510-991-7157; e-mail, planning@actransit.org.

commute-hour trips plus extended service into weekday evening hours on 24 of AC Transit's 37 Bay Bridge bus lines. Additionally, new weekend schedules will go into effect on two Transbay bus routes, Line C from Piedmont and Emeryville and Line F from Berkeley and the UC campus.

Fare adjustments proposed on the June 30 public hearing agenda are in two stages: A \$0.10 increase in basic local fares this year and \$0.20 increase in the base Transbay fare in year 2000. This would bring local fares, which have remained unchanged since May 1995, from \$1.25 to \$1.35 a ride for adults and youth (13-17). For children (5-12), seniors (65 and over) and passengers with certified disabilities, the cash fare would go from 60 to 65 cents.

For local rides, ticket books — costing 15 percent less than cash fares — and monthly passes would continue to be money-savers. Tickets would be \$1.15 per local ride (up from \$1.00) for adults, and \$0.55 (up from \$0.50) for teens, children, seniors, and passengers with certified disabilities. Monthly passes, good for unlimited local trips during the valid period, would go from \$45 to \$49 for adults, from \$25 to \$27 for teens and children, and from \$11 to \$13 for seniors and passengers with certified disabilities.

Consultant: Refineries a Y2K concern

'Basically everyone ought to treat this as a planned earthquake,' says adviser Bob Burnett

By James Carter

With just six months remaining before the year 2000, the greatest area of concern for Bay Area residents should be the chance of a Y2K-related accident at a small- or medium-sized oil and chemical company in the Richmond area, according to Bob Burnett.

Burnett is a computer program expert currently advising the City of Berkeley in Y2K preparations.

An organization called Citizens for a Better Environment is meeting with public officials and business representatives in the Richmond area, Burnett said, in an effort to discuss and resolve potential problems related to Y2K.

Burnett said small- and medium-sized chemical and oil firms may not be looking at problems within their embedded chip systems.

"There are just a lot of areas where things can go wrong there," he said. "And many of those companies may not have the manpower to fix things."

Burnett revealed his concerns during an interview regarding Congressional efforts to limit Silicon Valley's liability in Y2K-related lawsuits.

Under terms of a bill sponsored by John McCain, (R-Ariz.) high-tech firms would be spared from what some have described as a potential flood of class action suits in the wake

of Y2K.

The legislation, already passed by the Senate, would prevent firms and consumers from pressing Y2K-related law suits against high tech firms for 30 to 90 days after a millennium bug problem struck. It would also limit punitive damages in such cases.

President Clinton threatened to veto such legislation, saying it undermines consumers' rights and could reduce the need for corporations to become Y2K compliant.

Berkeley's Year 2000 advisor agreed with Clinton. "We really want these companies to work as hard as they can on compliance," Burnett said. "They've got to do something, and that's the point."

Burnett pointed to early claims made by Microsoft Corporation as an example of potential difficulties.

"At first Microsoft said that they had no real (Y2K) problems," he said. "Later, they said, 'Oh yeah, we do have problems after all.'"

The programming expert also opposed proposed limits on liability "because I want to motivate people to work on stuff. The problems are fixable," he said. He also opposed time limits on litigation.

"If you own a store or business and none of your cash registers function, 30 or 90 days is not going to work," he said. "That seems unreasonable."

"Everyone has to pull their own weight. If the Fire Department can't respond to a call because 911 is down, they should be held responsible."

"The federal government has probably gone overboard to try to keep people calm, telling them they don't have to worry," Burnett said. "They should be taking more of a tone that this is a scheduled earthquake and we need to be prepared."

New report pending

The next major Y2K news story "is an upcoming report due from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission July 6," Burnett said. Though he expressed some skepticism about the objectivity of the NRC, Burnett suggested it is crucial to determine what progress that industry has made toward becoming Y2K compliant.

If there are any computer malfunctions in the nuclear power industry, or with nuclear weapons, "some very unpleasant things can happen," Burnett said. However, he suggested such problems are far more likely to occur overseas than in the United States.

Nevertheless, Burnett agreed with calls for the nuclear power industry to "stand down" prior to the year 2000 — demands voiced by physicist Michio Kaku and others. "But I don't think that will happen," he lamented.

Burnett said he believes the City of Berkeley will be Y2K compliant before the end of the year.

Regarding the nation as a whole, Burnett said, "My bet is that some areas in the U.S. will have problems. (Y2K) will not take a huge hit on country, but people will say I'm glad I don't live in other smaller and rural

LEARNING ABOUT Y2K

The Year 2000 (Y2K) problem — or the millennium bug — is a very complex mesh of issues revolving around a decision made by computer programmers 50 years ago. In an effort to save memory and lower costs, two digits were used to represent dates instead of four.

Most microchips used in computers and other machinery are programmed to read years as two digits. The problem is that on Jan. 1, 2000, many of these chips will not recognize the date 00 and may either shut down or malfunction.

Y2K web sites and other sources of information:

■ William Ulrich — what local governments should do: www.zd-net.com/zy2k/1998/09/4793.html

■ The Y2K Sustainability Wave (Tom Atlee and Karen Mercer) www.co-intelligence.org

■ Oakland 2001: Network for Community Preparedness www.anamorph.com/oak2001

communities," areas he said are probably not prepared for the new year.

"Basically everyone ought to treat this as a planned earthquake," Burnett concluded. "Be prepared in terms having 72 hours of food and water. Assume some dislocation of an unknown magnitude, and work with neighborhood and community preparation groups."

(See sidebar for more information)

Maricich named Hills Newspapers general manager

Ruth Maricich has been appointed general manager of Hills Newspapers, Inc. In her new position, Maricich will have overall management responsibility for the five Hills weekly newspapers, including the Berkeley Voice and The Journal, The Montclair, Piedmont, Alameda Journal and the Family Fair shopper.

"Ruth has done an outstanding job for Contra Costa Newspapers and has proven herself highly deserving of this opportunity for added responsibility," said George Riggs, publisher of CCN. "We are extremely fortunate to have someone of her caliber ready to step into this important role." CCN acquired Hills last August.

Maricich, who will report directly to Riggs in her new position, has been with CCN since 1972 and has served in a variety of sales management roles. She was retail manager of the West County Times from

March 1984 to September 1987, general manager of the Fairfield Buyer's Guide from September 1987 to May 1992, and major accounts manager from May 1992 to October 1993. She replaces Scott Little, who is leaving the company to start a management consulting business. The change is effective immediately.

"I am very excited about this new opportunity," said Maricich. "I have lived in the West County area for my entire life. My husband Gary and I owned a business in Berkeley for 15 years and still have many friends and acquaintances in the Oakland hills communities. We feel very much at home with all the Hills communities."

World of building, shapes and fun at Lawrence Hall

What would you do with unlimited materials to create structures, machines, and vehicles? Let your imagination guide you to new heights of creativity at the new K'NEX Exploration exhibit at Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's family science museum. The installation opened last week and runs through Sept. 5.

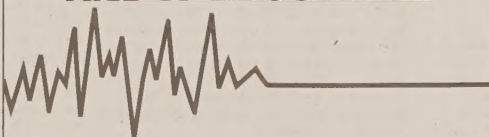
K'NEX Exploration is based on the popular building toys of the same name. The exhibit features life-size dioramas filled with furniture, structures, and real working machines made entirely of K'NEX building materials, and 16 interactive workstations with unlimited K'NEX building materials and optional instructions. The dioramas and building challenges focus on major science themes and provide background information on:

- Creatures of Habitat — evolution and adaptation of changing environments.
- Getting Into Shapes — structural strength, shapes and geometry.
- Tinkering With Technology — simple and complex machines including pulleys and gears.
- Forcing Around — forces, motion, friction, gravity, energy.

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Opinion



MAN ABOUT TOWN inspects folk art works at the end of the Albany Bulb and sounds a Whitmanesque "barbaric yawp." DAVE GREER PHOTO

Yawping on the Bulb

Breathes there a soul in the Bay Area who is not by now fully — probably overly — informed about the fate of a handful of squatters being evicted from the Albany Bulb to make way for the teeming masses of the state of California? I think not.

This diaspora has occasioned a media feeding frenzy with camera crews and ink-stained wretches pouncing upon — and being pounced upon — by the those about to be "put out of the park," as the poet Robert Frost described the eviction of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. ("Away")

Soaked in political correctness from school days on, these media maggots have outdone themselves to see who could be the most "compassionate" about those whom they have stereotyped and insist upon terming "homeless." Henry David Thoreau saw through this brand of compassion while at Walden Pond remarking, "Compassion is a very untenable ground. It must be expeditious. It's pleadings will not bear to be stereotyped."

This paper's James Carter, however, has been writing informative and evocative stories which prove that a good reporter on a small weekly can do a better job on local stories than the big surrounding dailies. Carter has walked the walk and talked the talk with the denizens of the Bulb for months now, and he knows the people and the place as no other reporter does. No, I did not have to say any of this.

As of last week, the media frenzy continued, according to Ann Ritzma, assistant city administrator. And it was expected to go on this week as the 27 Bulbers who have signed up for temporary housing began moving into to modular units next to the bulge in the bay they have been occupying. In the fullness of bureaucratic time, this promontory will be turned into part of a state park running along the shore from Oakland to Richmond.

The city has done both the humane and the politic thing by proceeding in stages and providing those displaced with housing for three months to allow slow movers to find other living situations. An abrupt expulsion to nowhere of an estimated 40 to 70 squatters would have occasioned a media spectacle to rival that of the refugees being driven out of Kosovo.

We can only hope that all goes smoothly and those inhabiting the temporary housing do not become overly attached to free room and board. But Ritzma and City Administrator Darren Fields have both assured me that the housing will be provided for "no more" than 90 days.

I recently set out to walk the Bulb and see for myself how the exodus was going, and if possible to discover why there was so much interest in a handful of unfortunate people. I had not gone far before I fell in with John Lionheart, a semi-retired contractor who does disaster inspections for FEMA and is a major Bulb buff. Knowing many of the residents, he was an ideal guide.

John has addressed the Albany Council on this matter and has a Web site (DisasterAid.com) on which he posts news items about the Bulb. He also has a poetry site (iPoet.com) on which he features homeless poets, some from the Bulb. And one of his dogs, Faith, a perky pup of partial Chow ancestry, was purchased there. Chester, his 14-year-old canine friend, formed the fourth member of our tour group.

And so we walked and talked under the blazing blue sky flecked with wheeling white gulls and riven by black

Man About Town

By Dave Greer

cormorants on their inscrutable missions. Was there an avian lesson writ here for the truth seekers below? Could it be that the seemingly feckless and the apparently purposeful both have their place in this world, and that both survive in their own way?

We saw a few residents at a distance, and met one on the trail who said he was moving into the temporary housing. We wished him well and continued our Magical Mystery Tour, talking of poets and poems.

John said the scene put him in mind of these lines from Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass": "Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons, it is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth."

John also told me the story (which is on his Web site) of a recent rescue off the end of this former landfill. A young man swam to a "floating dock some 240 feet" from shore, but then became too chilled to swim back. Bulbers, including the "Animal," who has figured in a number of recent news stories, rigged up a kayak and an inner tube and retrieved the fellow.

Warmed by a driftwood fire and the company of friends, he said his previously low spirits had been much lifted by the efforts made in his behalf. It seems that people without TV can still script, direct, and star in their own real-life adventures. The complete story with pictures is on John's Web site.

We soon arrived at the scene of the rescue, expecting only a barren shore. I was amazed to instead find a strange collection of folk art. To the right stand two totem pole figures; to the left are large concrete boxes covered with dark murals, some of fish; and in the center rough stepping stones lead to what looks like a good-sized ship driven hard aground.

This replica is built of heavy timbers, has a rail, cabin, and a sturdy flag pole from which flies a white flag with the word "SNIFF" in a red circle. What does it all mean? An anthropologist could speculate this was a place where primitive people worshipped forgotten gods. The novelist might see the wrecked ship as symbolic of the lives which have washed up here and yet endure. The poet could feel the flag is urging us to sniff the bay winds and sense the freedom of life in the rough. And they might all be right.

An old sailor, I could not resist having John boost me up on deck. Here I brandished my cane and let out one of Walt Whitman's "barbaric yawps." It's just that kind of place. It restores the sense of wonder we all once knew and most have lost: it makes you yell. John climbed up and had a good yawp himself.

Walking back, I thought of Thoreau's famous assertion that, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." Something in most of us who slave to keep a real roof over our heads cries out to chuck it all and dance on the deck of the good ship SNIFF under a star-strewn sky.

And yet we also fear some ghastly twist of fate might take our expensive roofs from us and shanghai us aboard for life as it has those now having their 15 minutes of fame. And so our natural empathy for the underdog is mixed with envy and fear, which may, or may not, help explain why the story of the Albany diaspora has such long legs.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reminder on parcel tax exemption

As a longtime resident of Albany and a member of the school board, I would like to extend my personal thanks to the voters of the community for their recent support of Measure A. The additional funds will make a significant impact on the quality of program we can offer the students in our district.

I would also like to remind those property owners who are 65 years or older and have a primary residence in Albany who intend to file for the exemption from this \$120 assessment to return their application to the Albany Unified School District office, 904 Talbot Ave. by the June 30 deadline.

These forms are available at the Senior Center, the Library/Community Center, City Hall and at the district office.

If you have any questions regarding the procedure, please call 559-6503.

Mary Wallmann
Albany

Misgivings about ferry proposal

At first blush, a Bay Area-wide network of ferries as proposed by Sen. Don Perata and the Bay Area Council (for profit corporations, not an elected body) offered promise to our untenable transportation problems. But reflection gives one pause.

I have only misgivings and questions. After many years of struggle, we are just beginning to restore wetlands and create walkable bay trails where we and our families may enjoy wildlife habitat.

High-speed anything makes noise and pollution. It frightens away birds and other wildlife.

The Bay Area Council claims to have a marine biologist on its advisory body. Ideally, many such naturalist/scientists must examine the proposal. The Bay Area Council claims that newly developed fuels and vehicles will make their proposal acceptable. I would prefer under-the-bay tubes for BART.

The Oakland Museum recently had an exhibit called, "Farewell Promised Land" which through pictures and text showed how private and corporate greed, rapaciousness and misguided elected leaders destroyed the beauty of California.

What's scary is that the video which the Bay Area Council is circulating to promote its idea contains endorsements by some of our elected officials. But not all.

At least one of our respected elected persons is opposed to the ferry network plan because it is a "yuppie scheme" which will not help working families.

What working families need is seamless transportation from their neighborhoods to

where the jobs are. We need jobs restored to the inner city. We need revitalization of our cities. All of us would benefit from having jobs close to where we live. We must not encourage further urban sprawl.

Let's keep talking.

Joan Bartulovich
El Cerrito

Questions about soccer field plan

Watching El Cerrito's City Council meeting of June 7, we noted the well-orchestrated parade of cute tikes dutifully pleading for a soccer field at Portola High to the delight of their beaming parents.

However, things turned ugly as one adult without provocation issued a threat and a challenge to both the council and the community who use Cerrito Vista field for baseball. Beyond this unpleasant effort at bullying and intimidation, it occurred to us that these enthusiasts need to ask themselves the following questions.

1. How many of them are actual taxpayers and residents of El Cerrito?

2. The tennis groups and swimming teams have worked hard to raise money for their sports. Why are the soccer people any different? How about some old fashioned money raising events, writing of grant proposals and obtaining a firm commitment of the \$150,000 promised by the West County School district, preferably in writing and notarized?

3. Whose playing field is it anyway? Doesn't this property belong to the school district, and isn't this just another example of double taxation? Taxpayers have already poured millions of dollars into the school system. Is this a bottomless pit?

4. We understand that Pinole will have a brand-new soccer field by end of summer.

There are no shortage of fields in other neighboring communities. Why can't we all share?

Edwin and Ethel Weber
El Cerrito

A closer look at the 'knee story'

Regarding Mark Wilson's column that told the story about the California Missions roof tiles not being formed over Native Americas knees. This is of course true.

The "knee story" is the result of typically poor 19th century translations from Spanish to English. Knees were used to remove the dried tiles from the molds by placing the knee into the concave side of the tile while lifting the mold free.

OK, I admit it—I've spent way too much time in the Bancroft library.

Richard Kibsgaard

A changing view by council member?

We read with great interest the story in the June 17 edition of the El Cerrito Journal in which El Cerrito Councilwoman Jane Bartke is quoted as expressing concern over the views of people east of the BART tracks being restricted by the height of new stores proposed for the El Cerrito Plaza. That concern is laudable.

Would that the council member had evinced similar thoughts July 15, 1996.

On that date, as a member of the City Council, she voted to allow construction of a second-story addition to a house on Arlington Boulevard that deprived us and four of our neighbors of much of our views of San Francisco and San Pablo bays and the city of San Francisco.

Based on past comments by Contra Costa County assessors, marine views account for a 15 to 20 percent premium on the value of a house. Bartke's vote was instrumental in taking \$40,000 to \$70,000 per household out of the pockets of the five property owners affected.

After the vote, Bartke had the temerity to tell us how much she was going to enjoy looking at the house she had approved as she drove to work. Now, the flip-flop council member can begin to enjoy that pleasure as the huge structure, which vastly overbuilds the lot and is incompatible with the neighborhood, is virtually complete.

Bill and Mary Doyle
El Cerrito

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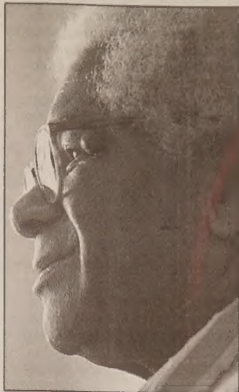
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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Rogers' road leads back to Bay Area

By James Carter



JOANNA JHANDA

LES ROGERS knows how to care for people.

scribed as "a very devote Catholic. His wife was from my parish," Rogers said, "so periodically he'd come to visit her family. That's how I met him."

The priest lived and taught on the eastern side of Lake Victoria, in a place called Musoma. Rogers taught there from 1959 to 1967.

Speaking about his early experiences in Tanzania, Rogers said "Being a Catholic priest, we certainly had our own opinions about things. We were right and they were wrong. That sort of thing. But it was really refreshing because the people there were very, very kind."

Rogers' parents fell ill and he returned to the Bay Area to take care of them, working at St. Bernard's Parish in East Oakland until his father died. One year later, he resigned from the priesthood.

"One of the reasons I resigned was to take care of my mother," Rogers said. "The other was that you reach a certain point in your life where you want to change. I was 38 years old. It was the early '70s. Many young priests left that year. A lot of us wanted to exercise our own judgment about things, and not follow what somebody else said was right or wrong."

The upheavals in the world did have an impact on him after all.

For two years, Rogers continued to work in East Oakland. Then, through a friend, he learned of an opening for a substitute teacher in a town called Albany.

"Though I was raised in southern Alameda County, I never heard of the place," Rogers laughed.

Rogers taught at Marin School for two years, then moved to the newly constructed middle school, where he did what he called "discipline."

Rogers attended San Francisco State and received the credential needed to become a vice principal. He served two years at the middle school in that position, then became vice principal of Albany High School in 1981 - a role he would fill until 1995.

Then he had another quiet change in heart.

"I requested reassignment," Rogers said. "I knew I was going to retire soon, and I really wanted to go back to the classroom." So he did. He got right into the thick of things. One might say he jumped in head first.

With the blessing of the school board, Rogers organized what was called an "opportunity class."

"I noticed all the years that I did discipline that most of the kids I saw, well, there was nothing wrong with them," Rogers said. "Either they were bored to death or well, all of them had fallen behind in their studies. And the schools didn't have, and still don't, a program to deal with kids who get behind."

"I always said that Albany schools are like a train going 90 mph down the track. It never stops at the station, and it doesn't slow down."

"So you lose a lot of kids that don't catch it the first time," Rogers said. "I think it starts in the first grade. It doesn't take long for teachers to start separating kids. And each year it gets worse and worse and they get farther and farther behind. Nobody ever stopped and said 'Let's go back and do whatever we can for these kids to get them all caught up.' So that's what I did."

Rogers believes that all the "op-

portunity kids" he taught will go to college. Yet he is bewildered why the program he developed is scheduled to be dropped next year.

"I don't understand the reasons, really," he said.

When the class of 1999 graduated, Rogers retired. Yet he remains concerned with what is happening to the educational system in California.

"When the state starts talking about standards and when we start judging schools and give an 'A' to one school and a 'C' to another, you know what I think is going to happen?" he asked. "Teachers and administrators are going to start focusing only on the kids that will get us an 'A.'"

"There's the possibility that we're going to have a two-tier school system. It's probably already happened, but I mean they'll make it official."

Rogers passionately believes that all young people have the right to a decent education. When the subject came up, his otherwise serene countenance began to bristle. Rogers lifted an eyebrow and bent a pointer finger. His voice, usually as soft and reassuring as a young mother, began to gain resonance and pound out a rhythm. The earth did not shake but it did not sit still, either.

"The mission of a school is to educate everybody and to help kids realize their potential," he said. "And teachers, who get kicked around quite a bit, are the key to making that happen."

"You talk to your kids about teachers," he said. "Especially the ones they like. And you will realize how important they are in a young person's life. A good teacher really touches the lives of people."

Rogers eyes twinkled and a faint smile formed.

"It's really awesome. Being a teacher is like being in the priesthood."

ALBANY IN BRIEF

Bidding on high school

By James Carter

Board of Education member Bill Cain told members of the Albany City Council Monday night that bids will be accepted for the new high school June 29. "If everything works out, we hope to be under construction Aug. 1," he said, "with a September 2000 occupancy date."

Round up on herbicide use

Several members of the Vista-McGregor PTA recently formed a local organization called the "Albany Coalition for Environmental Health," according to Dorothea Dorenz, one of the founders of the group and the current PTA president.

The organization was formed to "work cooperatively" with the ASUD and the U.C. College of Natural Resources in an effort to "investigate and create alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides" at Albany Schools and the Gill Tract.

Dorenz said both the ASUD and the College of Natural Resources have both agreed to a temporary ban on the use of RoundUp, an herbicide previously used by both the district and the college.

Albany Superintendent of Schools J. Dale Hudson suspended use to the herbicide weeks ago after an incident involving the herbicide at Cougar Field. Board Member David Farrell said "From what I understand, we have no more RoundUp spraying scheduled in the district until its use can be studied."

Farrell added he heard reports that the CNR had temporarily suspended spraying the herbicide as well, "which gives us enough time to gather more data" about the use of pesticides and herbicides "so we can make a reasoned decision."

Portables at the Bulb

As of press time, 27 residents of the Bulb have agreed to take up residency in temporary modules erected by the city of Albany near the land-

fill, according to City Administrator Daren Fields. Several began moving in June 23, he said.

Local attorney Geoffrey Taft, who has been unofficially representing the residents of the landfill, said he was taking a "wait and see" approach to the city's efforts to temporarily house and relocate the Bulb residents. He plans on taking a look at the temporary bungalows and the treatment of landfill residents before making a decision regarding a possible lawsuit against the city.

Taft contends that Albany is required to follow a number of laws and regulations that govern the "forced relocation" of individuals.

City Attorney Robert Zweben said June 8 "We don't believe at this point in time that these are persons that fall within the definition to make them eligible to the types of rights being asserted on their behalf."

"We certainly believe anyone has the right to have their constitutional rights protected," Zweben asserted, "and will act to ensure that. But given the fact that people file lawsuits for a large number of reasons, you have to try to evaluate matters and decide how to respond."

The City Attorney, who was on vacation when the ordinance prohibiting overnight camping at the Bulb went into effect, apparently returned June 21. Prior to his vacation, he said "it is certainly our desire — from the city's perspective — to provide persons with whatever relocation assistance is available so we can channel them, or provide an opportunity for them to find places to live."

Taft said he planned on meeting with Zweben "soon," adding that he had consulted with a number of other attorneys "that are advocates for decent housing" regarding the status of residents of the Bulb.

"There was some interest in pursuing this," he said, adding that everything "is on hold until we can see what is happening there, and the people's response. We don't want to jump the gun," he concluded.

Law enforcement at landfill

See BRIEFS, Page A15

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Cleveland	\$186	Toronto, CAN	\$159
Philadelphia	\$132	Tampa	\$161
Boston	\$137	Detroit	\$90
Houston	\$172	Cincinnati	\$142
Atlanta	\$161		

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Sample Discounted Fares from San Francisco
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CITY OF BERKELEY

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON BERKELEY GENERAL PLAN

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE DRAFT FOR CITIZEN REVIEW

Berkeley's new draft General Plan for the years 2000-2020 is available for public review. Berkeley residents and business owners are encouraged to read and comment on the Draft Plan. Copies are available at the City's website (<http://ci.berkeley.ca.us>) at 2118 Street, Suite 300, and at all Berkeley Public Libraries.

Help guide Berkeley into the new millennium. Participate in the planning process by commenting on the Draft Plan. Written comments are encouraged and verbal comments will be received at the following Public Workshops.

General Plan Citizen Review Workshop will be held on:

Sat., June 12, '99 - 2-4 p.m. - North Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., June 24, '99 - 7-9 p.m. - West Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., July 8, '99 - 7-9 p.m. - South Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., July 15, '99 - 7-9 p.m. - North Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., July 22, '99 - 6-8 p.m. - St. Clements Church 2837 Claremont

The first two meetings in June will also serve as scoping sessions for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) being prepared for the General Plan. The deadline for comments on the scope of the EIR is June 30, 1999.

Copies of the Draft Plan/Questions: Contact Andrew Thomas or Quentin Levy, Planning and Development Department
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Feedback on alliance call to action on district debt

By Glen Price

Alliance for Public Education education efforts on the continuing effects of the debt owed by the WCCUSD to the State of California are generating much discussion.

Richmond City Councilman Tom Butt sent over a great deal of archival information on the subject including the full text of the California Supreme Court decision in late 1992 detailing the court's opinion that all children in the state must receive an equal education and equality in school funding.

Writing to the Alliance for Public Education on behalf of the El Cerrito Democratic Club, Dwight Merrill noted, "In any discussion of the WCCUSD debt to the State, I believe it must be strongly noted that the State does not have clean hands with respect to this debt. The State prevented normal administrative procedures for discussion of disputed items, then, when the District attempted to address these issues in Bankruptcy Court, where a judge could have reviewed these contested issues and approved a legal settlement, the State took control of the District, exited the Bankruptcy Court, and imposed its own terms upon the District. Thus, this is not a debt which the District agreed to. Rather,

it is a debt which the State imposed on the District and then, having seized control of the District, prevented any review or discussion of contested issues. Even if the debt were agreed to under duress, the State has forfeited any moral right to the debt by preventing administrative or legal discussion of the issues. A large portion of this debt came about from disputed use of integration funds. The System for Choice was essentially a magnet school program, designed to insure choice of programs and integration of the schools. An audit disputed assignment of integration funds to the program. We were told that the State routinely disallowed assignment of funds in any audit, on the average 40 percent, and then after discussion with a district usually allowed most of the disputed items. RUSD was not allowed to make its case; instead the State seized the District and imposed an enormous debt upon the District. Yet it seems that RUSD had a much stronger case for the money than districts like San Francisco, which was recently allowed integration money in a much weaker case for the school district. I believe that the illegal nature of the debt forced upon the District by the State and the State's culpability in imposing this debt while preventing review of

the audit issues should be stated in all discussions of debt relief."

The WCCUSD pays the State of California approximately \$1.8 million each year in repayment of debt incurred when the state bailed out the district to keep the schools open in the spring of 1991.

For background and a copy of the Alliance for Public Education's 'Call to Action' on this issue, see the West County School Watch columns of <http://www.igc.org/west-county/042999.htm> and <http://www.igc.org/west-county/052799.htm>.

Want to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on local school issues delivered to your email address? Send the message "Subscribe" to pakglen@aol.com. Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted. Back issues of West County School Watch and other sundry items can be found on the West County School Watch web site: <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/>

Focus on Michael D. Doucet, DDS

By Roxanne Wiley

Dr. Doucet is on the move! On July 1, he will be in his new digs at the Alta Bates Building, 500 San Pablo Ave. in Albany.

Dr. Doucet is a board certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon for people of all ages, specializing in diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment of diseases, injuries and defects of the mouth and facial region. This translates to anything from the pulling of unwanted teeth, to implanting wanted teeth; any oral surgery (pediatric included), and solving any problem in the mouth or jaw. As a matter of fact, yours truly has parted company with at least one tooth at Dr. Doucet's office. Although, one does not like having to lose a tooth if one has to, Dr. Doucet's office is the place to do so. Everyone was kind and gentle with this otherwise "fraidy" cat.

The new space will give the good doctor and his fine staff 1,000 square feet of additional space, a digital X-ray system, wheelchair access and

ADA codes compliance, light airy and comfortable interiors, ambulatory operating chairs, emergency power backup, an emergency communications system, and an automated instrument cleaner.

"This modernization of our practice advances us technologically into the new millennium and most importantly it helps us improve the quality of care we deliver to our patients," says Dr. Doucet.

We know that Dr. Doucet and staff will flourish at the new location.

Alameda County Fair

The Alameda County Fair starts June 26 and will run through July 11. Great fun can be had by everyone and as it happens the Chamber has discount tickets, that will save you up to \$3 per ticket. Please come by the office, 1108 Solano Ave., if you are interested.

Community reminders

■ Hal Denham open house from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 30, at the Chamber office, 1108 Solano Ave.

ALBANY CHAMBER

■ Fourth of July celebration at Memorial Park, starting with a cake breakfast sponsored by the Lions club at 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. followed by car and pet shows, free ice cream for kids, softball, games, music, watermelon eating contest and more fun.

■ Chamber of Commerce Meeting hosted by John Tierney of the Albany Bowl, July 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet old and new friends in business community. Have good food, drink and fun and after maybe bowl a frame or two.

■ Baseball tickets: The Albany Police Department has become upon the Chamber, Oakland Athletics for July 4, and July 16, available while they last.

■ Walker's Restaurant and Shop is having a special 35th anniversary wine discovery dinner with winemaker Kent Rosenblum, Rosenblum Cellars on July 12. Call 525-4647 for reservations

Deadline near to file for parcel tax exemption

Applications are available now if you wish to apply for an exemption to the parcel tax just approved by Measure A.

For the tax year 1999-00, your application must be submitted by June

30, 1999 due to deadline constraints placed on the school district by the assessor.

If you will be 65 years or older by June 30, 1999 and own your primary residence in Albany, you are eligible

for an exemption this year.

Call the school district office, 559-6503 to request an application or to get information regarding applying for the exemption in the future.

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International House Berkeley
Is the Place to Be
This Summer!

2299 Piedmont Ave. at Bancroft Way

Call (510) 642-9460 for program details and admission prices.

Programs at I-House

Country Festival
Thursday, July 29, 6:00 - 10:00 PM
Enjoy traditional food, crafts and performances from the Philippine Islands.

International Dance Classes
July 1, 7 & 21, 7:00-8:00 PM
Dance styles will include Hustle, Kalamangit and Afro-Brazilian, respectively.

Rhythm Doctors
Friday, July 9, 4:00-7:00 PM
The Rhythm Doctors dispense their most potent prescription - live Blues and R&B dance music from the 1930s through the '90s.

Slide Shows/Lectures
All 7:30-9:30 PM
June 24 - California
July 8 - Peru
July 13 - Topic to Be Announced *
July 20 - Germany
July 27 - Topic to Be Announced *
* International Diplomatic Council Presentation

Social Dance Classes

July 12, 19 & 26, 9:00-11:00 PM
Learn a variety of ballroom dance styles.
Partner not required.

Summer World Beat

Friday, June 25, 4:00-7:00 PM
World One Radio's Corey Mason will broadcast an eclectic mix of popular music from around the globe live from the I-House front steps.

Trips/Tours

Oakland/Chinatown Walking Tour/Oakland Museum
Saturday, June 26, 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Join Chinatown expert, Rhoda Wing, on a fascinating tour of one of Oakland's most historic neighborhoods. Continue to the Oakland Museum. Pre-registration required.

Paramount's Great America Trip
Saturday, July 17 - All Day
Dare to climb aboard some of the most hair-raising rides in the world. Pre-registration required.

www.ihouse.berkeley.edu

4th of July
at the
Berkeley Marina
Join the Blast!

Noon to 10 p.m.

— WE'VE GOT THE FUN! —

Adventure Playground 11am-8pm • Madame Ovary's Puppets 12-10pm
Troupe Tanglers Bellydancers 12-1pm
Fantastic Steppers Senior Tappers 1-2pm
Bay Area Steppers Drill Team 4-5pm
• Wacky Art Car Display 4-8pm • Juried Art & Crafts 12-10pm
Facepainters, Tarot Readers • Yo-Yo Demos, Balloon Twisters
Glo-in-the-dark Necklaces • Food Booths, The Beach!

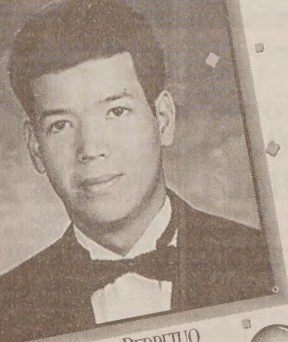
— WE'VE GOT THE MUSIC! —

MotorDude Zydeco 5-8pm • Royal Hawaiian Ukelele Band 5-7pm
Tatsumaki Taiko 2 & 3pm • The Deep South Band 2-5pm

Fantastic Fireworks 9:15 p.m.

BERKELEY MARINA
Alcohol-Free Event
No Personal Fireworks Allowed
No Vehicles after 7 p.m.
Sponsored by the City of Berkeley
Produced by Lisa Bullwinkel, Special Events 510-548-5555

Congratulations To These 4 Outstanding Students



JOEL PERPETUO

Congratulations Joel!
We're proud of your scholastic
and Tennis achievements.
Love... Mom and Dad

Congratulations Cynthia!
Daddy, Mama, Corey and
your many Friends wish you
success as you graduate.

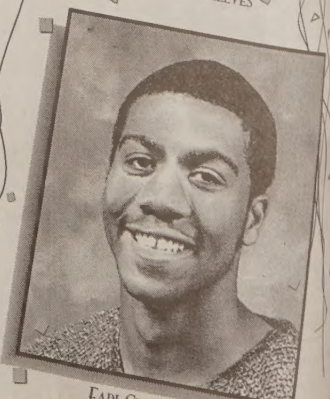


CYNTHIA KAE-MARILYN REEVES

The Class Of
1999

Congratulations Kristen!
Thanks for your hard work. I
know you will do well at the
University of California.
Have fun. Love...Dad

Congratulations Earl!
And to your entire graduating
class of 1999. From: The
Counseling staff at
Skyline High



EARL CRAWFORD



KRISTEN FALKENSTINE

Shop El Cerrito

Advertising Feature



October 19, 1970, Moeser Lane extension ribbon cutting: The 11-year project provided direct access to the hill area of El Cerrito. Frank Cortese was Mayor and Bob Weber was Chamber President. Groundbreaking for the Jay Vee Center, now Moeser Square was also held that day.



This landmark building on San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito is now the home of El Cerrito Mill and Lumber. In its earlier days, it was a restaurant and dance hall. Hammering it up from left are Jack Pinto, Del Wisenor and Elmer Freethy.

SHE'S BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN!

Dr. Horgan's patient suffered from a back injury but is now riding again.

DR. PAMELA ANN HORGAN
Chiropractor
510.232.0400
10951 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

Little Angie's - A famous watering hole in El Cerrito for 50 years and now known for mouthwatering charbroiled steaks. Owners Bob and Barbara Gilley invite you to dine "where the elite come to meet."

Dr. Pamela Ann Horgan is one of just a few women who are chiropractors in El Cerrito. Many of her patients are now very active after having had chronic, debilitating back pain. Chiropractic can even help seniors with bad arthritis. Dr. Horgan has been practicing in the East Bay for 10 years.

Single Cylinder Sale and Repair has everything the landscaper needs including chainsaws, trimmers, edgers and more. Sales and repairs at their El Cerrito shop.

Olivero Plumbing Co., has been serving the families of El Cerrito and surrounding communities since 1951. The firm specializes in plumbing service and repair and replacements of plumbing fixtures and faucets, water heaters and food waste disposers.

Freeway Motel is your home away from home in the scenic Bay Area. Owner Bill Kerber will accommodate your out-of-town guests with comfortable 1-, 2-, or 3-bedroom units, satellite TV and more.

Full Circle Travel has been serving its customers "with a smile" for 22 years. The staff of five knowledgeable agents is ready to help you find the best travel destinations for your taste, sense of adventure and your budget.

Lee and Dave Nishmas founded Rollin' Along because they couldn't find a scooter shop open on a Sunday. Their business sells, services and customizes scooters, wheelchairs, lifts and ramps. In-home service is available.

El Cerrito Lighting is a family owned business established in the 1940's. We are proud to say we have faithfully served El Cerrito and its surrounding communities, offering the residents friendly service and quality products at an affordable price."

Locators Real Estate has been serving the North East Bay's real estate needs since 1961. The full service company has experienced personnel for residential sales, commercial and investment properties as well as property management and rentals. For professional and courteous service call Locators Real Estate 232-0281.



One of the most architecturally interesting buildings on San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito is the headquarters for the city's Chamber of Commerce, "the united voice of business & professionals."



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Calendar

Submissions to Goings on About Town must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-availability basis.

Classes

Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness Classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug, 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Children

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 863-7023 for additional information.

Health

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

The University of California Botanical Garden announces extended hours for the summer, continuing through Labor Day, Sept. 6. During this period the garden will be open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. every day. Summer hours offer the opportunity to relax in the Garden after work, and to enjoy a picnic supper on the lawn or in the Redwood Grove. Plan some quiet

time to take advantage of the soft evening light and the magnificent site. The Botanical Garden is located on Centennial Drive in Strawberry Canyon behind the Memorial Stadium. Call 643-2755 for more information or directions.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC) presents Field Day, at Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley Marina on Saturday, and Sunday, June 26 and 27 at 11 a.m. Setup begins Friday, evening and break down on Sunday. Field Day—Amateur radio's most special holiday, where hams all over the country camp out, contact each other by all forms of radio, practice emergency preparedness and just have fun. The motto this year is "Youth—The Hope for the Future of Amateur Radio." There is a shuttle service between the big parking lot across from the Park and the Field Day site. Call 524-0723 for additional information.

Bring the family for a day at the Berkeley Marina on July 4. Dance to the Deep South Band (2-5 p.m.) or Mo-TroDude Zydeco (5-8 p.m.); enjoy Troupe Tanglers Belly Dancers (noon); the Fantastic Steppers Senior Tappers (1 p.m.); Tatsumaki Taiko (2 and 3 p.m.); Bay Area Steppers Drill Team (4-5 p.m.) or the Royal Hawaiian Ukulele Band (5-7 p.m.). Adventure playground is open for the kids from 11-8 p.m. Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Make this one a blast. Enjoy an alcohol-free event. No personal fireworks allowed. No vehicles after 7 p.m. Sponsored by the City of Berkeley. Produced by Lisa Bunkwiler Special Events. Contact 548-5335 for additional information.

The Albany High School Class of 1974 is celebrating its 25th year reunion. The reunion is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 14 at Scott's Seafood Bar and Grill in Jack London Square, Oakland. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with no host cocktails, followed by dinner and dancing. Cost per person is \$60. All RSVPs are due by July 10. Call the Reunion Committee at 525-4793 for additional information.

A "Celebration Honoring Susan Felix" noted Bay Area artist and non-profit housing developer for 20 years of barrier-breaking work. Entertainment by Frog Legs, Cajun Dance and singer Linda Hirschhorn. The party runs from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz on San Pablo Ave at Gilman St. Donation \$10-\$20. For more information and reservations, call 524-1029.

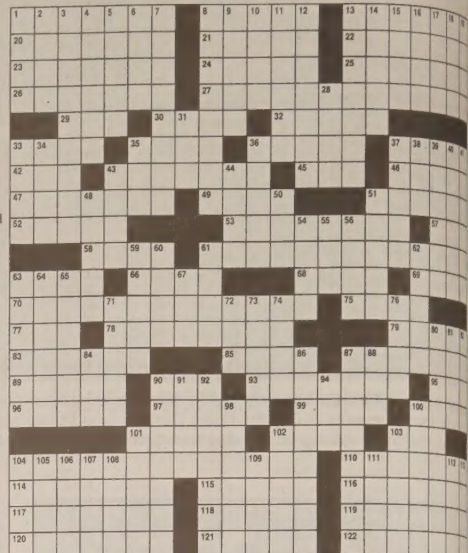
The Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award for Poems on the Jewish Experience announces its 1999 competition.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TEA FOR TWO

BY MANNY NOSOWSKY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS							
1	"Much Ado About Nothing" friar	51	Heavy-duty hauler	102	Experience	18	Alike: Fr.
		52	Pretend	103	Wedded	19	Two teaspoons, say
		53	Gather with difficulty	104	Slips, e.g.	28	Itty-bitty bit
8	Long Island town with a weather station	57	"Batman" sound effect	110	Uncomfortable	31	Car co. bought by Chrysler
		58	Language of Mexico	115	"—in the affairs of men": Shak.	33	Blue, in Baja
13	Diversified	61	A castle of Blackbeard overlooks its harbor	116	Offender	34	Cut to the—
20	Lake of the Four Forest Cantons	63	"Oh my!"	117	Driving force	35	Can
21	Queen topper	66	Russian name meaning "holy"	118	Mission in "The Thin Red Line"	37	When early-bird specialists often end
22	Quite a while back	68	"—your disposal"	119	Short solo	38	Emergency PC key
23	Without change	70	Ghostlike	120	More lathered	39	At risk
24	Pianist Claudio	73	Word that's an acronym of a Hemingway title	121	Downing Street family, 1955-57	40	Transport of song
25	To the extent that	77	Santa Fe-to-Roswell dir.	122	Is displeased and then some	41	Offers?
26	Chat	78	Overwraps	DOWN			
27	The	79	Overnight	1	One way to fall	42	Sicilian spouter
29	Film frame	83	Home with a view	2	Stratagem	44	Rear end
30	Kin to blackguards and knaves	85	Great times	3	Souffle ingredient?	48	Zing
		87	Showed off, as biceps	4	Fit together	50	Be off
32	Some coal carriers	89	Substantial	5	Barbaric	51	Beats in a pie contest?
33	Opening run	90	Finish completely, with "up"	6	—the finish	54	Got off
35	Bill passers	93	Juice providers?	7	Kind of shorts	55	Little dog, briefly
36	Boulez's New York Philharmonic successor	95	"—then I said"	8	"That makes sense"	56	Pennsylvania, e.g.
		96	Doesn't work	9	Begets	59	"I love you, Juanita"
37	Psalm ender	97	Become a member	10	1968 British comedy "Only When I—"	60	As well
42	Pulitzer playwright Akins	99	Shot maker	11	Poker player's declaration	61	Like some transactions
43	Carry out	100	Race place	12	Potbellied	62	Like a rat in—
45	"I'm so glad!"	101	Phony	13	Get way too thin	63	One of a Christmas trio
46	Biblical question			14	Stravinsky and others	64	Appropriate
47	Overlooked			15	Skifful	65	Panoramas
49	Purple shade			16	Morales of "La Bamba"	67	Roscoe
				17	Bust maker	71	They rise above sea level
See answers on page A9						72	Tee follower?
						73	Flynn on screen



Sponsored by the Judah Magnes Jewish Museum, it is the only major nationwide/international competition for unpublished poetry in English on the Jewish experience. Writers should first send a self-addressed stamped envelope for entry form and guidelines by July 31, to Poetry Award, Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94705.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700

Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.
Civil Rights activists needed. Write the

ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, N.Y. See CALENDAR, Page A8

SISTERS: Old Things Into New

Furnishing a home can be a difficult task. At Sisters, this process can be made easier and even fun.

Sisters specializes in estate liquidation services and acquires referrals from real estate agents and attorneys from clients choosing to pass on the contents of their home.

Since July 1992, they have offered specialty items from these estate sales including: linens, pottery, kitchenware, china, jewelry, and small furnishings such as bookcases, dressers and tables.

Owner Gayle Davis recalls her childhood memories and how they led her down the path of making household

finds a business of her own.

"My Mom Freda taught me the knack of treasure hunting," Davis says. "As a child I remember going with her to second-hand stores and auctions. It was so much fun."

Davis is well aware of the history behind what she sells. "Everything in the shop represents a time gone by, when life was easier and moved more slowly," she says. "I enjoy sharing all of our items with folks who come into the shop."

The majority of the inventory is purchased from East Bay residents who are moving or want to clean house. "It is a wonderful place to visit!

BUSINESS FOCUS

by Laura Fischer

says Davis, "and maybe find a special treasure for yourself or a friend."

Restoration referrals are available as well as free local delivery. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 12 - 6. Sundays on availability and by appointment. Located at 1250 Solano Avenue, Albany. Call: (510) 528-8020.

For information on the Business Focus, call Advertising at 339-4030.

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Was \$4365 Now \$2224

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JS FOR YOU!

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Calendar

FROM PAGE A8

mond, and Channing. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

The City of El Cerrito is accepting job applications for 1999 Summer Employment, day camp and pool staff positions. Ages 15 plus (must have job permit if under 18) Ages 12 + for volunteers. Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information call 215-4370.

Work Buddies: volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays, free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief, 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project: the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoologyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. WYCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley, serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits
Still Here: The Jews of the Pale of Settlement, a photographic exhibition by Peggy Myers is on view June 27 through Oct. 31 at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St. A special public reception with remarks on Jewish life in the Pale Today, by Myers and Dr. Ted Myers takes place June 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 549-6950 for additional information. The works of Franz Fehner Amalia Gultzer, Felicia Gonza-

lez, Constanza Blondet and Alexandra Kulka will be on exhibit beginning Wednesday, June 30 and continuing through July 3 at the La Pena's Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Pauletta M. Chanco, an installation artist who incorporates aspects of nature into her work, exhibits at the Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave. through July 3. For additional information call 620-6772.

A New Leaf Gallery, 1286 Gilman St., presents an exhibit, "Water Visions 1999," a contemporary water sculpture, which continues through Aug. 1. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 525-7621 for additional information.

Pauletta M. Chanco, an installation artist who incorporates aspects of nature into her work, exhibits at the Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave. through July 3. For additional information call 620-6772.

Sticks Fine Art Gallery and Custom Picture Framing, 1579 Solano, presents the paintings of David Martin through July 29. Call 526-6803 for additional information.

The Albany Arts Committee exhibits "Facing Change," continues through Sept. 9 at the Albany Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave. The exhibit represents three eighth grade Albany Art classes led by art teacher Meg Brady.

The Berkeley Art Museum Pacific Film Archive presents "Emerge: New Work by UC-Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Graduates," through Aug. 15. Emerge is an exhibition of works by candidates for the Master of Fine Arts degree at UC-Berkeley. Artists include Nina Lynn Bellisio, Jason Byers, Sook Im Choi, Elizabeth Demaray, Stephanie Anne Johnson, and Katherine Shozawa.

Instinct & Vision, a new exhibit, continues through June 27 at the Royal Ground Gallery, 2958 Mountain Blvd. Additional information call 339-0348.

New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Literary Events

La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents Goddess Manifests, an all female showcase of Bay Area talent on Thursday, June 24 at 8 p.m. There will be poets, dancers, emcees and DJ. This is a benefit/fund-raiser for



KEN FRIEDMAN

PLAYWRIGHT and performer Geoff Hoyle, with Kailey Hoyle (as The Kid), in The First 100 years — an existential clown show that chronicles the life and times of an aging comedian. Plays through July 11 at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St. Call 845-4700 for ticket information.

KPFA's Elemental Roots and the Sistah Cipher zine. Tickets are \$7. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

Barnes and Noble, 2352 Shattuck Ave., presents Jeremy L. Dorosin author of Balance at Middlefork: an Adventure in Human Freedom on Thursday, June 24 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information call 644-0861.

"Strong Women: Writers and Heroes

of American Literature"; 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. every Thursday; free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program; Helen Rippler Wheeler, instructor; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; 549-2970 after 9 a.m.

Meetings

The NBSC Community meeting takes place on Tuesday, June 29 at 1:15

p.m., at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Open discussions with Maggie and Diane. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

The Albany Zoning Code Revision Committee will meet Tuesday, June 29 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Packets and the agenda will be available at city hall on Friday, June 25 to pick up. Call 528-7668 for questions.

The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

Spirituality and Healing. Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment; 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS; 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannard St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters; meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

Toastmasters; noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 883-6708.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Strong Women-Writers and Heroes of American Literature meet on Thursdays from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. This is a free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program. For additional information call 549-2970.

Music

The Jazzschool introduces its first summer session, which includes six weeks of classes, workshops and concerts beginning July 12. The Summer Session class schedule focuses on performance ensembles led by the stellar Jazzschool faculty. Students apply what they learn in the classroom on the bandstand at The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series each Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. at LaNote Restaurant, located adjacent to the Jazzschool, at 2375/77 Shattuck Ave. Tickets are \$12 general, \$10 students/senior, \$6 Jazzschool students and children under 12. Advance reservations are recommended. Call 845-5373.

The La Pena Chorus turns 21 and goes on tour to Chile. A birthday and Buen Viaje Benefit takes place on Friday, June 25 at 8:30 p.m. Come hear songs old and new and plans for tour. Old cho-

See CALENDAR, Page A13

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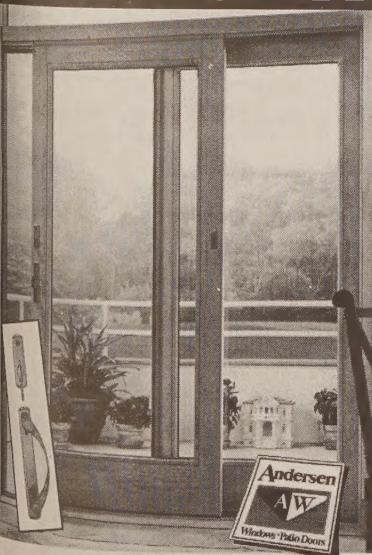
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PEOPLE

Artist honored with Best of Show

"Tomatoes for Neruda," a watercolor painting by Albany artist Carole Fitzgerald was recently awarded "Best of Show" at the Sebastopol Art Center in a juried competition with over 400 entries. The artist painted "Tomatoes for Neruda" for the Albany Community Center's fifth Anniversary celebration exhibit held in December 1998 through February 1999 sponsored by the Albany Arts Committee. The Juror was well-known San Francisco painter Mark Adams. Karl Goldstein of Berkeley has purchased the painting.

Miss Senior California Pageant - this is an important event in our community to be held in the Dell Valle Sierra Room of Rossmore Senior Community, Walnut Creek, CA. The event will be held with the help of the talented producer Faye Smith, and Master of Ceremony will be Ms. Dee-Lee, who was Miss Senior California in 1997.

The great attraction of the event will be the famous American actress Beverly Garland.

Ms. Senior Northern California Pageant

Alexandra Doren, a longtime El Cerrito resident, is one of 12 contestants in the Ms. Senior Northern California Pageant on Sunday, June 27 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dell Valle Sierra Room of the Rossmore Retirement Community.

The contestants will compete in evening gown, talent, philosophy of

life competitions, as well as a five-minute interview with pageant judges.

KTVU News anchor Dennis Richmond will emcee the pageant, now in its 20th year. Among the judges will be noted movie and television actress Beverly Garland.

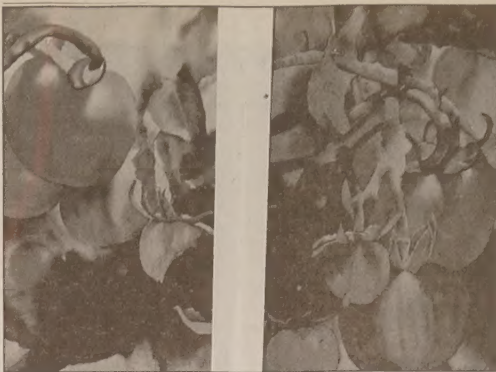
Doren, a talented singer who was the county finalist in 1998, is originally from the Ukraine. As a refugee from a German forced labor camp, where she had been a prisoner during World War II, she arrived in the United States in 1951.

She has great memories left behind, which she says are too much to tell: memories about famine in Ukraine, where she was born, about the hard menial work in Germany during the entire war, about the loss of her parents and an entire country, and about persecution by the communist system, followed by persecutions by the occupying Germans.

She says these political and economic changes twisted and tested her physical and emotional strength until brought her to the United States.

Doren believes this pageant has meaning and purpose to our community and to our country as a whole, which shall strengthen the communication between young and old, saying, "The stronger the communication between young and old, the better learning experience in life shall be contributed to better our community and our country as a whole."

See PEOPLE, Page A14



'TOMATOES for Neruda' by Carole Fitzgerald.



ALEXANDRA DOREN, right, will participate in the Ms. Senior Northern California Pageant.

Happy anniversary to the Walkers for 35 years on the Avenue

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

They must be doing something right! Walker's Restaurant and Pie Shop is celebrating its 35th birthday, and, on July 12, will have a Special Anniversary/Wine Discovery Dinner to mark the anniversary.

And note the Wine Discovery part. That refers to Winemaker Kent Rosenblum, of Rosenblum Cellars. And he is another story. Kent Rosenblum is a veterinarian who became interested in wine and the grapes it is made from. Is it just coincidental that his wine is Chateau de Paws, and there are paw prints on the label?

Rosenblum puts out 30 to 40 wines every year, but his primary wine remains Zinfandel. He has 19 different Zinfandels, Walker tells us, from different regions and different vineyards. Rosenblum cellars is in Alameda.

I wrote about Doug Walker several years ago, and find he is still an interesting person, as his sister, Dolly, suggested.

Doug was born in Albany. In fact, he was born in "the last room at the end in the Albany Hospital" which used to be on the spot that is now the Albany Library/Community Center. His early days were spent in Berkeley, but the family moved back to Albany in 1960, when he got out of the service. He helped his father open his restaurant, the Heather and Thistle, on Solano, and worked for him during his college years. The college years included two years at Diablo Valley College in the Culinary Arts Program.

His decision to open his own restaurant came in the middle of April in 1964. He found the perfect site - where it is situated today - around the first of May, and started working on it on the 15th of June. With his wife's help, he was able to build it and open it on July 13, 28 days after he graduated. "It was a lot simpler in those days," he concedes, and he adds, "I am pretty focused when I get serious about something."

His sister Dolly, who had been living in Southern California "and other places around the world" joined him in the business in 1973, and "she has been a phenomenal partner," her brother says. and he adds with a

think I do the stuff she doesn't like to do."

She is very business oriented and "smarter than a white rat." He adds fondly, "we get along very well. We do have our fights, but they are few and far between, especially now. She is a good protector of our business, and watches out for things that could mix us up."

In 1976 they decided to expand, and again, from the moment the decision was made to do it, to reopening was quick and efficient. From decision to reopening took 63 days. And they only lost three days of business. "That was one of my couple of life."

When he started the restaurant he only offered lunch and pie. Usually he got into serving breakfast sort of in spite of himself. He was serving Danish pastries in the morning, that he made himself. But people, including a group of Pilgrims people wanted breakfast. Physically, long time waitress, came to him one morning and said "These guys want breakfast. Is it okay if I cook it?" And she did, cooking it and serving it herself for about two or three years.

It wasn't until 1970 that Doug decided to open for dinner. When did he had an immediate clientele. "And that has been the real success of the business in many ways."

Walker speaks of his "phenomenal staff", and points out Jorge Sandoval, the chef, who has been with them about 10 years, starting as a dish washer. Jorge was originally from Guatemala. After cooking for them for a couple of years he enrolled in the food service program at Contra Costa College, and expanded his capabilities and interests. "He's very talented in the kitchen."

And his current pie maker, Mita graduated from the Culinary Arts program in San Francisco. Doug himself, was the original pie maker. "The recipes for the crusts came from my aunt to my father to me."

See WALKERS, Page A14

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Notes on a monumental trip to Washington, D.C.

Snappshots

By Martin Snapp

took its course, and the ladies had to unchain themselves to go to the bathroom. That's when the bulldozers moved in, and Jefferson was duly memorialized.

I also went to one of those Washington cocktail parties you've heard so much about. One of the people I met was a guy named Neil O'Leary, who is head of intelligence for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

You've probably never heard of it, which is just fine with them. The DIA is even more hush-hush than the CIA. These guys are the real Super Spooks. Anyway, here's what he told me: Did you know that every topographical map (the kind you'd buy from Rand McNally) has an error? Not only that, it's on purpose. For instance, the map of Washington lists the Lee-Custis Mansion at Arlington National Cemetery as the "Lee-Curtis" Mansion. Why? For copyright reasons. "You can't copyright an exact reproduction of the earth," he told me, "because you can't copyright the earth. But if you include one small error, it's deemed 'fiction,' and that you can copyright."

Well, I haven't had a chance to check yet, but you can be sure that the next time I pass a Rand McNally store, I'm going to check out the maps for errors. Think of it as "Where's Waldo?" for grownups. Or looking for the Ninas in a Hirschfeld cartoon.

I couldn't visit Washington, D.C., without making a pilgrimage 15 miles down the road to Mount Vernon, the

home of the greatest American of all, George Washington.

If you'll recall, every biography of Washington that we read in school had people saying to him, "George, come lead the Continental Army," or "George, come be our first president." And Washington would reply, "Gee, I really hate to leave Mount Vernon, but if you insist, well, OK." And if you were like me, you probably said to yourself, "Who does this guy think he's kidding?" But if you ever saw Mount Vernon, you'd know that he wasn't kidding at all. It's simply the most beautiful spot on earth. If I lived there, wild horses couldn't drag me away.

Incidentally, did you know that you can arrange to have your ashes scattered at Mount Vernon? It's true. "So many people were doing it on the sly," said my tour guide, "we decided to legalize it so we could regulate it."

But the most glorious monument of all is the Capitol building itself. It's truly the temple of our democracy. All the main streets in Washington intersect under the Capitol Rotunda. And all statues in the city face the Capitol. To find one that doesn't, you have to cross the river to Alexandria, Va., where a statue of a Confederate sol-

dier in the town square moons the federal city. Old grudges die hard in rebel country.

The Rotunda itself is one of the most beautiful rooms I've ever seen. I apologize for being corny, but it makes you proud to be an American. Most of it was painted about 100 years ago by an Italian immigrant named Constantino Brumidi.

On the ceiling of the dome is his masterpiece, "The Assumption of George Washington," a monumental fresco showing Washington being welcomed into heaven by 13 angels, representing the original 13 states. Of course, Brumidi was a notorious ladies' man. And according to legend, he used 13 of the city's best-known ladies of the evening as his models for the angels.

Just off the Rotunda is the old House chamber, now known as Statuary Hall. Earlier in this century, every state was asked to send statues of their two greatest citizens to display in the hall.

California chose Thomas Starr King, the San Franciscan who was largely responsible for keeping the state loyal to the Union during the Civil War, and Father Junipero Serra. Oklahoma sent a statue of Will Rogers —

the only person so honored while still living. Rogers made a little joke about that, saying, "You birds are trying to jinx me." And a few weeks later he took off with Wiley Post on their fatal flight to Alaska.

There's a curious acoustical anomaly about the old House chamber. There are two spots on either side of the room where, if you stand on one spot, you can hear what somebody is saying on the other spot, even if they are barely whispering.

On one of those spots is a plaque reading, "On this spot stood the desk of Rep. John Quincy Adams," who spent many years in Congress after he left the White House. Adams used to pretend to be dozing off, but actually he was eavesdropping on his opponents.

Of course, the effect works both ways; they could listen in on him, too. So whenever he had anything really important to discuss, he would get up and hold a conversation while walking around the room. And that's how he got his nickname: the "Wandering Congressman."

But for me, the most moving sight in the Capitol are the hallways just off

the Rotunda, those corridors of power you've heard so much about.

The walls and ceiling — also painted by Brumidi and his successors — are covered with portraits of our greatest heroes and scenes of their most glorious deeds.

The most recent painting is a group portrait of the Challenger astronauts who died in the space shuttle.

And here is what really gives me the shivers. A few walls are still bare. They are being reserved for heroes yet to be born and deeds yet to be done.

Washington is a city steeped in history, but the real meaning of all I saw isn't about the past. It's about the future.

Looking at those unpainted walls, I couldn't help wondering whose pictures will go up there after you and I are long gone. Will it be Chase Moore? Or one of the Children's Fairyland Storybook personalities? Or your own kids? They are the true heirs of Washington, Lincoln and FDR. And it is up to us to get our children ready for their historic mission.

Phone Martin Snapp at (510) 273-9039, or e-mail him at catman@california.com

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Schools

Advertising Feature

The Head-Royce School

SPORT & RECREATION CAMPS

Boys & Girls June 21-July 30 Ages 8-15

Our "Weekly Program" offers a wide variety of activities for one week. Sign up for one week or all six weeks. Cost \$130/wk (12:00-6:00), \$57/wk (12:00-2:30), \$78/wk (2:30-6:00).

The "Session Program" offers selected tennis activities for two weeks. Fee's vary depending on the program.

Call for a free program catalog: 531-1300 x305

The Head-Royce School

Group/Semi-Private/Private Lessons

Session I June 21-July 2 1/2 hr lessons
Session II July 6-16 1/2 hr lessons
Session III July 19-30 1/2 hr lessons

Early Registration: January -May 30
Late Registration: June 1-July 16

Red Cross Certified Staff. Lessons follow the Red Cross "Learn to Swim Program" Small classes and warm water make program extremely popular. Sign up early to guarantee your place in a class. Group lessons: Early Reg. \$68/ Late Reg. \$85/ Semi-Private Lessons: Early Reg. \$110/ Late Reg. \$130. Private Lessons: Early Reg. \$205/ Late Reg. \$230

Call for free catalog: 531-1300 x305

Legal Notices

The Public's Right to Know

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

File No. 97-2575
The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:
1) Global Business Internet, 2) Global Business Trade Consultancy, 714 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530-3248
Also: 20 Eastgate Drive, Daly City.

Signed: Charles J. Duff, 714 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on May 7, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-3267
The Name of the Business: Health Strategies International, 2 Madonna Place, Orinda, CA 94563.

Is hereby registered to the following owner:
Eliot A. Marselle, 2 Madonna Place, Orinda, CA 94563.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 1, 1999.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on May 7, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-3300
The Name of the Business: (ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT) PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE/Forum for Public Comment

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS OF BUS SERVICE AND FARES
(Proposals are subject to modification at a public hearing)

Notice is hereby given that Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District has scheduled public hearings at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, to accept comments on proposals to introduce new bus service and to increase bus fares and pass/ticket prices.

PROPOSED SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Proposals one through six require a public hearing before the AC Transit Board of Directors, while proposals seven through 10 do not. The Board, however, also requires to receive public comment on these latter proposals during the scheduled public hearings. Comments on all proposals will be considered by the Board prior to adopting a service improvement program. The proposed improvements are:

1. Introducing new commute-hour service connecting the Ardenwood area of Fremont and the Gateway area of Newark with the transit center at BART Union City Station. A new route would operate weekdays as limited-stop service in the commute direction (i.e., from BART to Ardenwood/Gateway in the mornings, and from Ardenwood/Gateway to BART in the afternoon). In the non-commute direction (i.e., mornings from Ardenwood/Gateway to BART), the route would serve local stops (primarily along the route of Line 26), giving residents convenient access to the Union City transit center.
2. Introducing new Line 631 supplemental school-day only service to link residential neighborhoods of Boy Farm Island with central and northern Alameda.
3. Establishing new bus service connecting southern Alameda County employment centers in Fremont with Alameda Commuter Express (ACE) trains from the Livermore and San Joaquin Valley, and to the Centerville Depot in Fremont.
4. Improving scheduled frequency of West Contra Costa's late night Line 376 bus service from hourly to 30-minute intervals.
5. Expanding service on Lines 52/52L, between University Village in Albany and the UC Campus, and Line 44, from Rockridge BART to Concord City and Telegraph, to meet the increased ridership expected to result from the introduction of the new UC Berkeley "AC Transit Campus Pass" program in the Fall 1999 semester. New Saturday/Sunday weekend service would be added to Lines 52/52L.
6. Expanded and re-routed service on Line 9 to serve North Berkeley BART and the Fourth Street shopping district between Cedar Street and University Avenue.
7. Extension of Line 37 to better serve the Ohlone College campus in Fremont.
8. Restoration of weekend service on the following 31 lines: 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 23, 37, 44, 45, 48, 54, 55, 56, 59, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71, 75, 76, 77, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87, 90, and 95. "Line 14 service to West Oakland and Line 56 service to the Oakland Loop were restored temporarily on June 13, 1999. Line 96 would be expanded to operate on Sunday, as well as Saturday."
9. Restoration of hourly, all-night, "owl" service on Lines 40 (Telegraph Ave. - Foothill Blvd. - Bancroft Ave.) 73 (San Pablo Ave. - Macdonald Ave.) 82 (West Seventh - East 14th St. (International Blvd.)) and 82 (San Francisco - Oakland City Center - MacArthur Blvd.). All lines will make time-transfer connections with one another at 14th and Broadway.
10. Expanded hourly owl service on Lines 51 (Alameda - Oakland - Rockridge - Berkeley), 58 (Jack London Square - Grand Lake - MacArthur Blvd. - Oakland Airport), and New Line A (San Francisco - Jack London Square - Oakland City Center - Oakland Airport). Regular service on Line A has already been approved; this proposal would establish owl service to replace Line A2 between San Francisco and Oakland City Center. These lines would be scheduled to connect with one another and the 40, 73, and 82 at 14th and Broadway. New Line 301 (Hayward BART - South Hayward BART - Union City BART - Fremont BART) would provide limited-stop connections between BART stations in southern Alameda County during the hours BART is not in service. Time-transfer connections would be made with Line 82 at Hayward BART.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN LOCAL AND TRANSIT FARES

An increase in fares and pass/ticket prices is proposed for the coming fiscal year, with local fare increases to be implemented in October 1999 and an increase in transit fares to take effect in February 2000.

LOCAL FARES			
Fare Category	Current	Proposed for October 1999	Proposed for February 2000
Cash	Adult: \$1.10 (\$1.17)	\$1.35	\$1.35
Children 5-17, Seniors, and Certified Disabled	\$0.60	\$0.65	\$0.65
Ticket/ Multi-rider	Adult: \$1.00	\$1.15	\$1.15
Transit	Children, Seniors, and Certified Disabled: \$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Permit	Adult: \$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Transit	Children: \$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Seniors and Certified Disabled	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Bus-to-BART Transfers	Adult: \$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Transit	Children, Seniors, and Certified Disabled: \$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
AC Transit Transfers	Adult: \$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25

TRANSIT LONG-DISTANCE

(Lines with fareways exceeding a distance of 100 miles in length)
Lines 1A, 2A, 3A, 5A, and 8A

	Youth, Children, Seniors, and
Passes	Adults
	Youth, Children, Seniors and

FUTURE TRANSIT LINE-A

(San Francisco-Denver/Oakland-Oakland Airport)

Meeting site is wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact the District Secretary's Office by phone at (202) 462-9790. Please do not wear scarves or hats to the meeting.

The above fares are applicable to a fare between San Francisco and the Oakland Airport. Passengers traveling between the San Francisco and the Oakland Airport will pay the full fare and will be subject to the full fare and will be subject to the full fare.

Public comment on these proposed improvements and increases is invited either in writing or at the public hearings scheduled for 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, in the District's 2nd Floor Board Room, 1600 Franklin Street in downtown Oakland.

Written comments may either be sent by mail or presented at the Public Hearings. Mailed comments, facsimiles, or e-mail must be received at the District Offices no later than 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, to be provided to the board for consideration at the Public Hearings.

Address written comments to AC Transit District Secretary, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612; send by facsimile to: (510) 891-7157; or send e-mail to: clanning@actransit.org

Mailing site is wheelchair accessible. A sign language interpreter will be provided, if needed. To arrange for an ASL translator, please contact the District Secretary's Office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 25, 1999. Call (510) 891-4868 (hearing-impaired only, call TDD-ONLY 1-800-448-9790). Please do not wear scented products to the meeting.

The Name of the Business: California's Most Wanted Processor Service, 2544 Macdonald Ave., Richmond, CA 94804.

Is hereby registered to the following owner:
Michael Lawrence, MCD, 707 401 Street, Richmond, CA 94805.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 12, 1999.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on May 12, 1999.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE

File No. 99-3185
The Name of the Business: (ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT) PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE/Forum for Public Comment

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS OF BUS SERVICE AND FARES
(Proposals are subject to modification at a public hearing)

Notice is hereby given that Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District has scheduled public hearings at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, to accept comments on proposals to introduce new bus service and to increase bus fares and pass/ticket prices.

PROPOSED SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Proposals one through six require a public hearing before the AC Transit Board of Directors, while proposals seven through 10 do not. The Board, however, also requires to receive public comment on these latter proposals during the scheduled public hearings. Comments on all proposals will be considered by the Board prior to adopting a service improvement program. The proposed improvements are:

1. Introducing new commute-hour service connecting the Ardenwood area of Fremont and the Gateway area of Newark with the transit center at BART Union City Station. A new route would operate weekdays as limited-stop service in the commute direction (i.e., from BART to Ardenwood/Gateway in the mornings, and from Ardenwood/Gateway to BART in the afternoon). In the non-commute direction (i.e., mornings from Ardenwood/Gateway to BART), the route would serve local stops (primarily along the route of Line 26), giving residents convenient access to the Union City transit center.
2. Introducing new Line 631 supplemental school-day only service to link residential neighborhoods of Boy Farm Island with central and northern Alameda.
3. Establishing new bus service connecting southern Alameda County employment centers in Fremont with Alameda Commuter Express (ACE) trains from the Livermore and San Joaquin Valley, and to the Centerville Depot in Fremont.
4. Improving scheduled frequency of West Contra Costa's late night Line 376 bus service from hourly to 30-minute intervals.
5. Expanding service on Lines 52/52L, between University Village in Albany and the UC Campus, and Line 44, from Rockridge BART to Concord City and Telegraph, to meet the increased ridership expected to result from the introduction of the new UC Berkeley "AC Transit Campus Pass" program in the Fall 1999 semester. New Saturday/Sunday weekend service would be added to Lines 52/52L.
6. Expanded and re-routed service on Line 9 to serve North Berkeley BART and the Fourth Street shopping district between Cedar Street and University Avenue.
7. Extension of Line 37 to better serve the Ohlone College campus in Fremont.
8. Restoration of weekend service on the following 31 lines: 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 23, 37, 44, 45, 48, 54, 55, 56, 59, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71, 75, 76, 77, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87, 90, and 95. "Line 14 service to West Oakland and Line 56 service to the Oakland Loop were restored temporarily on June 13, 1999. Line 96 would be expanded to operate on Sunday, as well as Saturday."
9. Restoration of hourly, all-night, "owl" service on Lines 40 (Telegraph Ave. - Foothill Blvd. - Bancroft Ave.) 73 (San Pablo Ave. - Macdonald Ave.) 82 (West Seventh - East 14th St. (International Blvd.)) and 82 (San Francisco - Oakland City Center - MacArthur Blvd.). All lines will make time-transfer connections with one another at 14th and Broadway.
10. Expanded hourly owl service on Lines 51 (Alameda - Oakland - Rockridge - Berkeley), 58 (Jack London Square - Grand Lake - MacArthur Blvd. - Oakland Airport), and New Line A (San Francisco - Jack London Square - Oakland City Center - Oakland Airport). Regular service on Line A has already been approved; this proposal would establish owl service to replace Line A2 between San Francisco and Oakland City Center. These lines would be scheduled to connect with one another and the 40, 73, and 82 at 14th and Broadway. New Line 301 (Hayward BART - South Hayward BART - Union City BART - Fremont BART) would provide limited-stop connections between BART stations in southern Alameda County during the hours BART is not in service. Time-transfer connections would be made with Line 82 at Hayward BART.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN LOCAL AND TRANSIT FARES

An increase in fares and pass/ticket prices is proposed for the coming fiscal year, with local fare increases to be implemented in October 1999 and an increase in transit fares to take effect in February 2000.

LOCAL FARES			
Fare Category	Current	Proposed for October 1999	Proposed for February 2000
Cash	Adult: \$1.10 (\$1.17)	\$1.35	\$1.35
Children 5-17, Seniors, and Certified Disabled	\$0.60	\$0.65	\$0.65
Ticket/ Multi-rider	Adult: \$1.00	\$1.15	\$1.15
Transit	Children, Seniors, and Certified Disabled: \$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Permit	Adult: \$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Transit	Children: \$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Seniors and Certified Disabled	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Bus-to-BART Transfers	Adult: \$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Transit	Children, Seniors, and Certified Disabled: \$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
AC Transit Transfers	Adult: \$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25

TRANSIT LONG-DISTANCE

(Lines with fareways exceeding a distance of 100 miles in length)
Lines 1A, 2A, 3A, 5A, and 8A

	\$45.00	\$49.00
	\$25.00	\$27.00
and	\$11.00	\$13.00

FUTURE TRANSIT LINE-A

(San Francisco-Denver/Oakland-Oakland Airport)

		February 2000
	\$2.75	\$3.00
Disabled	\$1.35	\$1.50
	\$2.50	\$2.55

The above fares are applicable to a fare between San Francisco and the Oakland Airport. Passengers traveling between the San Francisco and the Oakland Airport will pay the full fare and will be subject to the full fare and will be subject to the full fare.

Public comment on these proposed improvements and increases is invited either in writing or at the public hearings scheduled for 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, in the District's 2nd Floor Board Room, 1600 Franklin Street in downtown Oakland.

Written comments may either be sent by mail or presented at the Public Hearings. Mailed comments, facsimiles, or e-mail must be received at the District Offices no later than 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, to be provided to the board for consideration at the Public Hearings.

Address written comments to AC Transit District Secretary, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612; send by facsimile to: (510) 891-7157; or send e-mail to: clanning@actransit.org

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The Name of the Business: (ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT) PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE/Forum for Public Comment

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS OF BUS SERVICE AND FARES
(Proposals are subject to modification at a public hearing)

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Permit	Adult: \$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Transit	Children: \$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
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Transit	Children, Seniors, and Certified Disabled: \$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
AC Transit Transfers	Adult: \$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25

TRANSIT LONG-DISTANCE

(Lines with fareways exceeding a distance of 100 miles in length)
Lines 1A, 2A, 3A, 5A, and 8A

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ART and the Fourth Street shopping c
Fremont.

FUTURE TRANSIT LINE-A

(San Francisco-Denver/Oakland-Oakland Airport)

to connect with one another and the Union City BART - Fremont BART) will be hours BART is not in service. Timed-

The above fares are applicable to a fare between San Francisco and the Oakland Airport. Passengers traveling between the San Francisco and the Oakland Airport will pay the full fare and will be subject to the full fare and will be subject to the full fare.

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Address written comments to AC Transit District Secretary, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612; send by facsimile to: (510) 891-7157; or send e-mail to: clanning@actransit.org

Mailing site is wheelchair accessible. A sign language interpreter will be provided, if needed. To arrange for an ASL translator, please contact the District Secretary's Office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 25, 1999. Call (510) 891-4868 (hearing-impaired only, call TDD-ONLY 1-800-448-9790). Please do not wear scented products to the meeting.

Public comment on these proposed improvements and increases is invited either in writing or at the public hearings scheduled for 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, in the District's 2nd Floor Board Room, 1600 Franklin Street in downtown Oakland.

Written comments may either be sent by mail or presented at the Public Hearings. Mailed comments, facsimiles, or e-mail must be received at the District Offices no later than 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 1999, to be provided to the board for consideration at the Public Hearings.

Address written comments to AC Transit District Secretary, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612; send by facsimile to: (510) 891-7157; or send e-mail to: clanning@actransit.org

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Calendar

FROM PAGE A9

members and fans are encouraged to attend to help with nostalgic sing-alongs. The La Pena Cultural Center is located at 3105 Shattuck Ave. Tickets are \$10 to \$15. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

The Freight & Salvage presents Charles Fox Guitars on Friday, June 25 at 7 p.m. featuring Steve Ergulaga, jazz and classical. Jim and Morning Nichols, modern jazz. Chet Atkins, style, fingerstyle and vocal and Tom Long, Celtic folk. Tickets are \$14.50 at the door, \$13.50 in advance. For a limited number of free passes, visit the CFOX Guitars East Bay Dealer: Piedmont Piano and Music Co. at 4382 Piedmont Ave. Call 547-8188.

The Julie Morgan Theater presents the last two events of its American Broadway Music Festival. The Ross Valley Theater Group performing the classic tunes of Richard Rogers and Hart, Hammerstein et al., can be heard on June 25 and 26, 8 p.m. Clint Baker's New Orleans Jazz Band performs "Jazz Music of New Orleans" on July 3, 8 p.m. and July 4 at noon. Tickets for these events range from \$10 to \$25. Call 883-7018 for tickets and information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for the dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany MOCA, 301 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), 1338 San Pablo Ave., sponsors Bicycle Touring Essentials from A to Z on Thursday, July 1, 7 p.m. Patchen Vintz, who recently completed 12,000 miles by bicycle around the Pacific Rim, will demonstrate how to best prepare for a safe and enjoyable bike travel.

Learn how to select the gear needed for a trip, how to properly load your bike and how to handle common repairs and problems encountered on the road. Whether looking for an organized tour or want to strike out on your own, find out some great places to tour in Northern California and beyond.

East Bay Regional Parks Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

Stroke Support Group for Stroke survivors, their families and friends. No advance reservations required. Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Maffey Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way.

Culture/Workshop

Author Carol Combs who has 14 years of experience leading sacred journeys to the Andes and the Amazon,

presents a free slide show and talk on Thursday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Travel Shop & Bookstore, 1385 Shattuck Ave. The talk focuses on the mystical mountains of Peru. Enter the shamanic world of Andean healers and hear the story of the true discoverers of Machu Picchu.

The Brown Sheep Project Guillermo Gomez-Pena, the alternative rebel artist, will begin a five-day residency on Wednesday, June 30, 8 p.m. at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. A cast of seven young activists/performance artists and hip hop poets from the Bay Area will join Gomez-Pena in an intensive workshop with a critical exchange. Tickets are \$6. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

"What is Meditation?" is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragya Dova is the facilitator. Call 64-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Religion

"Daily Word Readers" Anyone interested in meeting with others to study the Unity principles contact Anne Allen, 843-5611.

Theater, Dance & Film

La Pena Cultural Center and Citi-centre Dance presents: Aisha Aku Dance Company at CitiCentre Dance Theater, 1428 Alice St. second floor, Oakland. The company of dancers and musicians illuminate the intersections in Cuban, Brazilian and U.S. rhythms. Tickets are available at La Tienda, La Pena and at CitiCentre Dance. Prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For additional information call 849-2568.

Winning Photos: First Annual Richard Nagler Photography competition of the Judah Magnes Museum highlights images by 15 extraordinary photographers. The Magnes Museum's new competition encourages Jewish work in contemporary art forms. The exhibit continues through Oct. 31. Call 549-6950.

Microcosm: Insect Nature Film, a video documentary, airs at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St., on Wednesday, June 30 at 1 p.m. For more information call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

The UC-Berkeley, Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, continues its exhibit "Show and Tell: A Selected History of Photography and Video,"

through July 31. The exhibit is a selective survey of the history of photography and of early video art. For further information on this or any other museum programs call 642-0808.



UC Theatre's 82nd birthday gala

Wednesday, June 30, marks the 82nd birthday of the UC Theatre at 2036 University Avenue in Berkeley. The UC celebrates this amazing milestone with free birthday cake, ice cream and two spectacular films starring the lovely Judy Garland, the "The Wizard of Oz" (new beautiful

print in Technicolor) showing at 7 p.m. and "A Star is Born" (in Cinemascope!) at 4:05 and 9:20 p.m. You're in for quite a treat when you see this classic double feature at the UC Theatre, where the films are presented as their directors intended, reel to reel, and on the big screen. Immediately preceding the 7 show

of The Wizard of Oz is the short film Precious Images, Chuck Workman's stirring homage to the cinema. After the 7 p.m. show, the staff of the UC Theatre will be serving everyone free cake and ice cream in the lobby, a small token they say, of their continued admiration for the loyalty of patrons over the years.

The UC Theatre is located at 2036 University Ave. Tickets are \$6.75 for general admission and \$4.75 for seniors, children, and the disabled. Those who attend the first show of the day, or any show beginning before 3:30 p.m., can take advantage of our bargain matinee price of \$4.75. Details: 510-843-FILM.



Buy recycled. It would mean the world to them.

Recycling keeps working to protect their future when you buy products made from recycled materials. So celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15th. For a free brochure, call 1-800-CALL-EDF or visit our web site at www.edf.org



BUY RECYCLED.



AND SAVE.

When you buy products made from recycled materials, recycling keeps working. To find out more, call 1-800-CALL-EDF.



It Works Wonders.



American Heart Association

Legal Notices

The Public's Right to Know

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3547
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3695
The Name of the Business: Target Realty and Loan, 5391 Debra Lane, El Sobrante, CA 94803
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by a corporation
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on June 8, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3698
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3699
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3700
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3701
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3702
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3703
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3704
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3705
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3706
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3707
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3708
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3709
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3710
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3711
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3712
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3713
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3714
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3715
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3716
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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The Journal June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3717
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on May 18, 1999
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3718
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
Quality Works Inc.
State of Incorporation: California
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3719
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3720
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3721
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3722
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3723
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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State of Incorporation: California
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3724
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No 99-3725
The Name of the Business: Loma Plaza, 3100 Loma Plaza Blvd., Alamo, CA 94508
I, the undersigned, am hereby registered to the following owner:
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People

FROM PAGE A10

Local kids win awards in chess tournament

Two sisters and a brother from El Cerrito have won several awards for chess recently. Nazee, Ahmad, and Mahnoosh Moghadam have been on various chess teams since they started to learn and play chess through the Berkeley Chess School, an after school program highlighted in last week's Journal.

The three competed at the California State Chess Championships in March at the Santa Claire Convention Center, part of the more than 780 kids K-12 competing. Trophies were awarded to the top 15 players in each division.

Fifth grader Nazee Moghadam tied for third place in the K-6 750U, while fourth grader Ahmad tied for first place and is the 1999 state co-champion in the K-8 850U Junior Varsity division. He also is the 1998 Jr. Amateur Chess Champion G/15 in the Peninsula. First Grader Mahnoosh Moghadam came in 39th in the K-3 600U and her school team,

the Berkeley Chess School, came in first place winning her a medal. The three of them represented Kensington Elementary School and the Berkeley Chess School.

May 15-16 was the California State Grade Level Championships in Stockton. Nazee won a 6th place trophy for the 5th grade level, Ahmad won a 5th place trophy for the 4th grade level and Mahnoosh won a 3rd place trophy and T-shirt for the first grade level.

Hopkins Talent Search

A number of outstanding local students were honored for their ex-

ceptional academic talents by the Johns Hopkins University Institute for the Academic Advancement of Youth, including Lisa Connolly, Xuan Luo and Dorothy Russell of Albany Middle School.

Top fifth- through eighth-grade students participated in the 20th annual Hopkins Talent Search, hosted recently by Mills College in Oakland. The search offers students who typically excel an opportunity to explore the full extent of their verbal and mathematical reasoning skills using above-grade-level testing.



NAZEE, AHMAD, and Mahnoosh Moghadam with chess coach Mr. Brown.

Dining & Entertainment

Advertising Feature

Shem's Palace
The Best & Unique Health Chinese Food in the Town

Tasty, Natural and Plenty

9935 SAN PABLO AVE. EL CERRITO
OPPOSITE EL CERRITO PLAZA
(510) 525-8313
OPEN TUES.-SAT. 11 A.M.-9:30 P.M.
SUN. 4:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M.
CLOSED ON MONDAY

Garibaldi's on College

5356 College Ave.,
near Manila, Oakland
(510) 595-4000

The menu at Garibaldi's focuses on Mediterranean-style seafood, from tantalizing appetizers (baked oysters, scallop ceviche) to perfectly done entrees (grilled swordfish, spaghetti with scallops and prawns). Zesty mussels, with saffron, aioli and orange are piled high, and a rich dessert of warm chocolate pudding-cake, espresso ice cream and toasted nuts is enough to satisfy almost anyone. First-rate pizzas and cold tapas make this a great place for sharing, and a semi-private back dining room is good for groups. Major cards accepted and wheelchair accessible.

Nava Restaurant

5478 College Ave.
Rockridge (510) 655-4770

The best place in the East Bay to eat your last meal? That would be Nava, a new gem in Berkeley's culinary crown. This place is a winner and the bill of fare, which changes monthly to take exquisite advantage of peak seasonal ingredients, is downright fabulous.

The taste sensations here are seductive and varied. Every appetizer here is astounding, but the crab cakes are a knockout, enhanced by a range of exotic relishes, glazes, and sauces, on every menu so far.

The menu features seven to eight entrees featuring fish, fowl, a vegetarian entree or two, and fabulous cuts of meat.

King Shang

5912 College Ave. - Rockridge
Oakland - (510) 428-1823

Owner has twenty years of experience and unique knowledge of Chinese-style cooking. From sizzling rice soup and potsticker appetizers to the sweet and sour chicken and mui shu vegetable, the zesty aromas and flavors are refreshing. Lunch and dinner feature best Mandarin, Hunan and Szechwan specialties in Oakland. Outdoor patio with full service dining is available. Major credit cards accepted.

Orinda Grill

87 Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 254-3611

The Orinda Grill is a cozy, intimate restaurant with a charming atmosphere. The menu offers daily specials and game such as venison, ostrich, quail and elk (seasonably available).

We are open for lunch Monday-Saturday; and dinner Tuesday-Saturday. On-site and off-site catering is available. The Orinda Grill is still "the best game in town."

Sergio's Trattoria

5999 College Ave.
Oakland (510) 655-2869

This fine dining establishment will bring back memories for transplanted New Yorkers and create new ones for the Californian looking for a taste of "Little Italy." Outdoor, cafe style dining coupled with an intimate, formal indoor seating offer you the best of both worlds while enjoying the sumptuous cuisine. Seafood, pasta, chicken, meat, plus daily specials are featured. Live music on weekends.

Reservations recommended. Banquet facilities for small groups available. Dining at Sergio's is truly an authentic Italian experience. Wheelchair accessible.

The Ark - Pier 29

300-29th Ave. - Oakland
(510) 261-1621

Located at the foot of the Park Street Bridge, The Ark at Pier 29 is a bright spot on the Oakland-Alameda estuary. In addition to the welcome ambiance and hearty fare, the nautical theme alone is worth a look-see.

The menu includes fresh seafood, steaks, chicken and daily specials. The Ark serves breakfast daily. Indulge in traditional egg dishes, seafood crepes, egg benedict, home baked muffins and much more.

Plenty of free parking, or sail over and tie up at the 80-foot guest berth. Bring your appetite! Open seven days.

The Reef

1000 Embarcadero-Oakland
(510) 836-2519

At The Reef restaurant you get a combination of quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary expertise from the same owners for 18 years.

The menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking. Sauces include curry, champagne, and various Thai specials.

The Reef Restaurant is located about one mile south of Jack London Square off 880 freeway. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.

Julia Morgan Theater

Saturday and Sunday June 19-20, 2000
Because He Lived

A Gospel Play
Performed by
Oakland's
Perfect Peace
Church
\$20/\$15/\$10 presale
\$5 more at door
\$7 buffet before show

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in Berkeley is
Theater Rats!

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start June 14 • Call 883-7023

2440 College Avenue, Oakland
(510) 841-0004 • www.juliamorgantheater.com

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In Casual Elegance
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(510) 836-2519

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WONDERFULLY SEASONED WOOD GRILLED ENTREES
Steaks • Seafood • Vegetarian Dishes
Pasta • Extensive Wine List

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5478 College Ave. Rockridge
655-4770

2 for 1 Entree
Dinner \$12 Maximum
(Valid Sunday - Thursday; not valid
on holidays • Expires 6/30/99)

87 Orinda Way
Orinda Village
Orinda Grill 925 254-3611

ADVENTUROUS BISTRO CUISINE ARTFULLY PRESENTED
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Celebrate

FROM PAGE A1

baseball game at 9 a.m. Then, beginning at 10 a.m., the festivities include a watermelon eating contest, juggling act, pet show, face painting, balloons, a dunking tank, carnival games and plenty of food and free ice cream for kids provided by the Chamber of Commerce.

What's more, this year there will be also be puppet shows, an akido demonstration, an honor guard ceremony and a car show.

"The car show is geared to people who appreciate fine vehicles," Michael Kaplan said. "There will be classic Jaguars, MGs, hot rods, a '57 Chevy sedan and even antique mili-

tary vehicles there."

Kaplan said there's plenty of room for folks to show their cars.

"This is a non-competitive show," he said. "It's perfect for someone who has a nice old automobile and has never participated in a car show before."

According to George Krebs, who also organized the event, the car show will also feature a yo-yo exhibition—"something new," he said. Krebs also encourages folks to participate.

The Fourth festivities will end officially at 3 p.m. with a raffle, though families are welcome to stay later if they wish.

Those interested in showing a car can call 528-5777, send an e-mail to mhk@lanset.com, or send a card to Albany Car Show, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, 94706.

Fair

FROM PAGE A1

booths with local crafts and food and drink—soul, reggae, and band music—and a tea dance and all sorts of games and attractions for kids ages 2 to 12.

"This one sounds like it's going to be the biggest and best" said Barbara Cronin, who helps organize volunteers for many of the fair's booths. It's the only Fourth of July fair that is held in the city," Cronin said.

She noted that this year's celebration will not only be at its traditional Community Center site, but also at a second site across the street at Cerrito Vista Park. In addition to traditional events, a "world rhythm stage" will be up and online the park 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Performers include Omar Joaquin and the Dabblers, Global Echo, the Ali Khan Band and the ever-popular Wawa and the Oneness Kingdom.

El Cerrito's Community Development Manager and Rotarian, Gerald Raycraft, pointed out that the city is getting "worldwide exposure" via the participation of radio station KEGC-FM 88.1 and 97.7. The radio station, operated by the West Contra Costa Unified School District, has an affiliate station in Long Beach and is broadcast around the world.

The second venue should add an age range, teen-agers and young adults, to the fair's already strong turnout.

Glenn Davis, Rotarian and one of many who help organize the fair, said

Repair

FROM PAGE A1

It was emphasized several times that the estimates are still preliminary and subject to change, but they are the best currently available.

Renovation/remodeling of the swim center could cost \$2.5 million or more. Canyon Trail Clubhouse rehabilitation was estimated to be \$255,000. To have restrooms accessible to all, including the disabled, at Huber and Poinsett parks will cost an estimated \$42,000 each.

Accessible restrooms at Harding Park are estimated to cost \$24,000. The estimate for a soccer or multi-use field at Portola Middle School is high as \$700,000, according to the subcommittee's report.

The report noted that "whatever priorities are pursued should be seen as fair and equitable across the different projects in order to gain voter support." It also said that the Committee of the Whole and its subcommittee, the Financial Review Team, need to "look at the history of how we got into this situation of deteriorating infrastructure so that it doesn't happen again."

Delehurst said the swim center was the focus of most of the discussion at the 2 1/2-hour meeting the subcommittee had with Parks and Recreation members on June 3. Cost estimates to repair or reconstruct the swim center have varied widely in past discussions.

The report stated that the two Park and Recreation representatives expressed a desire for a more state-of-the-art facility, which was in contrast to the \$551,000 maintenance and upgrade estimate it had shared with the (Committee of the Whole) in its previous meeting."

A Citizens Advisory Committee recently evaluated several proposals from consultants looking into how to rehabilitate or reconstruct the swim center. An Auburn company, the RJM Design Group Inc., was chosen to prepare a more detailed swim center plan. The work will cost about \$500,000 and take about 12 weeks to prepare.

Al Miller, who is a co-chair of the Committee of the Whole and a member of the swim center Citizens Advisory Committee, said the consultants' report will provide the community with enough information

El Cerrito budget gets OK, but animosity surfaces

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—A few things were cut, a few things were not, and El Cerrito has an approved \$15.5 million operating budget for next fiscal year. During City Council budget discussions meetings this week and last, some tough decisions were made and some frustrations surfaced.

During the budget meeting last week, City Manager Gary Pokorny passionately defended city staff and spoke of "expectations that never stop."

Contending "it has become fashionable at the high levels of some organizations in this community to bash these people," Pokorny praised the city's department managers and staff and said "I have never worked with a harder-working group of people."

The new budget, which by law had to be adopted by July 1, reduces the amount budgeted for salary adjustments by \$67,000, reduces funds budgeted for economic development implementation by \$62,000, eliminates the proposed position of information services manager (saving \$79,000) and makes other smaller

reductions.

But the council also voted to retain a restored six-month police detective position and (by a 3-2 vote) a restored six-month police commander position. It also voted 3-2 to retain full regular tree trimming services in the city, including a "doubling up" to make up for past cuts in the program.

The budget also reflects some relatively minor new revenues resulting from the recently passed state budget. El Cerrito will receive about \$52,000 from a one-time state revenue sharing program, about \$46,000 from the state for criminal booking fees, and about another \$20,000 from the state's Education Revenue Augmentation Fund.

The lion's share of the budget—more than 55 percent of the General Fund—goes to police and fire. Community Services accounts for \$2.9 million, or about 12 percent of the General Fund. Community Development is budgeted at \$2.8 million, or about 18 percent of the General Fund.

The adopted budget strategy also appropriates \$159,000 for a new underground fuel storage tank at the

Public Safety Building, and \$263,424 for the Annual Street Improvement Program that will carry over from the current year into the new year. And \$150,000 from the General Fund—Undesignated Reserve is earmarked for the Portola soccer/multi-use playing field.

The 1999-2000 annual budget was approved by the council 4-1 at last Monday's meeting. Councilman Larry Damon voted against its adoption.

"We repeat the same process year after year without examining what we're really doing," Damon said later. "What we need is an overall plan—not a budget derived from that plan. The plan would show what our objectives are to the citizens and how we are going about meeting those objectives and what the resource requirements are to meet those objectives."

At Monday's council meeting, Damon pushed a plan to fund programs using actual year-end numbers from the previous year, adjusted for inflation, instead of using projections.

Damon said "it would seem that our budget for each year would reflect recent history." He suggested the savings be placed in a "slush

The lion's share of the budget—more than 55 percent of the General Fund—goes to police and fire.

fund" and used as needed by different departments to fund such things as police and fire overtime.

Councilwoman Jane Bartke worried that such a method could endanger public safety since the police and fire departments cannot predict how many emergencies will occur in the next 12 months.

She said that both police and fire have needed overtime allocations in their budgets. "Both of those public safety bodies have emergencies that happen—and I think they filled the money in for when they happen," Bartke said. "What you're suggesting is we change the way we do the budget—I don't think tonight is the time to do that."

Briefs

FROM PAGE A1

According to Police Chief Larry Murdo, all residents of the landfill

have been notified that the no camping, no campfire ordinance will soon be enforced.

Police have photographed all residents and charted where they live. On Friday, additional roads will be constructed on the Bulb "to provide

better access to the area," Murdo said, adding that next week, police will actively patrol the landfill and issue citations to those still living there.

Murdo said the law will be enforced judiciously on the Bulb in-

suring the constitutional rights of all residents there.

He also described homelessness as "a national disgrace," and urged legislators to develop and fund programs aimed at helping individuals such as those living on the Bulb.

History

FROM PAGE A1

wait. They had a stolen getaway car there, up with a mounted machine gun, one up to make sure nobody but their partners got off that train. Everything went exactly as planned.

Before train No. 36 pulled away from the long-abandoned Noble Station, the Smith Gang's car was kicking up dust, wheels spinning, racing down the road. The gang got away with \$60,000, and without sustaining so much as a scratch.

For the time being, anyway.

Historian Warren Lee writes about the Smith Gang and some 200 other subjects in a soon-to-be released book called "The Selective History of the Commodities-University Village, Albany, and Environs."

It's not a history-based novel, though it is packed with intriguing stories, not to mention a library of facts and figures.

The truth is "The Selective History" is a book written for people interested in doing historical research about the East Bay: antiquarians, government agencies, and scholars. Yet it also has a great appeal to just about anybody that believes history is in the details.

Every page is packed with information carefully researched and documented by Lee, a scholar with a doctorate in history, political science, and international affairs.

The Berkeley Wharf

Among the dozens of topics detailed in his book, Lee reveals that the Berkeley Marina pier originally was a commercial wharf.

"It extended way out into the bay because the water was too shallow close to shore," Lee said in an interview. "To bring in vessels like those loaded with timber, you had to dock on a wharf way out in the bay."

Lee said that in the 1920s, the wharf was converted into an auto ferry pier with a line that ran to San Francisco.

"It lasted through World War II," he said. "In fact, when I came here in 1936 to look around, I walked down the pier and rode the ferry, never thinking I would care much about it. It was a long walk."

Yet that walk was nothing compared to the journey Lee undertakes in his book.

In a section chronicling University Village, Lee says the complex was originally built by the Federal Housing Authority for folks—and their families—who worked at the shipyards and other war-time industries. It was also home to navy personnel that lived in the vicinity.

Such a revelation may not surprise those acquainted with the background of the village. But there's another more fascinating detail Lee uncovered.

The original village—opened May 10, 1944, "may have been the first

public housing unit in the United States that was racially integrated," Lee said.

No time for bigotry

"They needed workers, and they couldn't really cater to a lot of bigotry. They needed workers and the workers needed housing. The easiest, best and fairest thing was simply to integrate."

Asked why he chose to study the East Bay, since his home is in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Lee said "because of the trains."

"I was interested in the Richmond shipyard railway, built during the war to convey workers from San Francisco, Emeryville and Oakland to the shipyards. The train was built entirely out of used material."

According to Lee, the cars and carriages that shuttled workers back and forth along a 12-mile line of track once carried passengers of the Second Avenue Elevated Line in New York City. The carriages were built sometime between 1880 and 1890.

"People here didn't like them too much," Lee said. "But they served the purpose. So I became interested in this railroad. Then I discovered that it ran directly through what is now University Village—right down Ninth Street."

This is the type of stuff that sets a man like Lee's mind ablaze. It has the same draw as gold has to those who want to get rich quick.

Yet Lee is never in a hurry. He

meticulously pages through old books, bills of lading, maps, railroad and city records—anything that will give him a clue about what happened when and why.

Burn this book

Lee's book is a work that will probably cause many students of local history to stay up all night.

If your spouse or lover is such a person, better burn this piece.

However, those interested in trains and race tracks, gambling and floods, wetlands and waterways, tunnels and timetables—not to mention intercity land disputes—well, this might be just the thing for you.

End of the Smith Gang

By the way, the Smith gang got clean away with \$60,000 on Nov. 7, 1930.

But Dec. 1, they were captured by the police hiding out in an apartment building in Oakland and dragged off by police to a post office nearby and held prisoner.

Frank Smith tried to escape, Lee said. But he was shot dead.

"That was pretty much the end of the Smith Gang," Lee said. "Frank was the leader, you know."

For more information, call Warren F. Lee at 799-6199.

James Carter can be reached by email at JCarter1@cctimes.com

Walkers

FROM PAGE A10

and he credits his father with developing most of the recipes for the pies, as well as for many of the recipes for the food. However, "we have expended on them."

The breakfast and lunch chef is Bob, who does a wonderful job. He has been with them for 3-1/2 years. The wait staff, too, does a wonder-

ful job. "We have always had a good staff. We get lots of compliments." And he ponders a bit: "I have had a lot of pleasure from teaching young people about cooking and business. Maybe that's why most of the staff stay a long time."

Doug has two sons and two step daughters. The boys help out when needed and "are pretty talented in the kitchen, but I don't anticipate that either one will want to take the business over." The older of the boys is married and has two children. Step

daughter #1 has two boys, while #2 will be married in September.

The menu for the July 12 anniversary dinner looks scrumptious, as do the wines that go with it. (though I don't ever remember a wine called Fleur du Hoof). It ends with a chocolate soufflé, served with a 1997 Russian River Valley Zinfandel Port. mmmmm.

The dinner with wine is \$50 a person, inclusive of tax and gratuity (without wine \$40 per). People who are interested are invited to call

Walker's Restaurant & Pie Shop at 510-525-4647, or visit the shop at 1491 Solano Avenue in Albany.

It was Dolly who called and suggested that another column about Doug might be of interest. And it is. Thank you, Dolly.

As always I invite your input: Interesting people, events, organizations, etc. Please call me at 525-4585 or write me at 555 Piers St., #443, Albany, CA 94706. My email is cr-genser@aol.com.

Signal

FROM PAGE A1

cil in months, members settled down and debated a proposal to alter the way traffic lights allow automobiles to flow east and west on Marin Avenue.

Though the entire town is in the midst of developing a citywide plan, the Traffic and Safety Commission has concluded that immediate action is needed on Marin Avenue.

As Councilman Ed McManus noted during Monday's meeting, there have been many collisions on Marin Avenue already. He said action was necessary to avoid "the big one," a term McManus used to describe a potentially cataclysmic accident there.

The question posed by McManus: how to slow traffic and discourage the use of Marin Avenue as a thoroughfare.

The short and least-expensive answer offered: alter traffic flow by regulating traffic lights.

Green means go

According to a report presented by consultant Matthew Ridgway, the traffic signals at Masonic and Santa Fe avenues and Peralta Street currently work by detecting the pres-

ence of cars on those side streets.

Ridgway is an associate of Fehr & Peers Associates, Inc., a firm contracted by the city to help develop a traffic plan.

Mechanisms called vehicle detection devices—coils underground that detect movement—currently send a signal indicating that automobiles on the side streets are waiting for the light they face to turn green. These devices can also extend the length of a green signal for traffic on the side streets if there are a lot of cars there, according to a report prepared by Fehr & Peers.

However, under a proposal favored by the firm—one of three presented by Ridgway—traffic could be monitored by similar devices on Marin Avenue as well, meaning the flow of traffic would be regulated from east to west.

McManus expressed concern that by regulating the east and west movement of automobiles by traffic lights, Marin Avenue could become "more attractive" as a "freeway" connection to the Berkeley hills.

The councilman said steps should be taken to "de-emphasize Marin Avenue as a parkway," a street used as the quickest route to the Berkeley hills.

Councilman Jon Ely expressed similar concerns and discussed the

problems pedestrians face when they try to cross that thoroughfare now.

Ridgway and City Administrator Daren Fields said the purpose of installing new equipment would be to slow traffic down, increase and improve pedestrian crossing times on Marin, and decrease vehicle and pedestrian side street delays for crossing Marin. Ridgway suggested that signals timed to allow traffic to flow at a steady pace could actually slow the speed of traffic.

McManus questioned such thinking, again suggesting that a steady flow of traffic, even if it moved at just 25 mph—slower than most cars travel down Marin—might result in more people driving up and down the avenue.

Former councilman and current board of education member Bill Cain approached the council and suggested members consider a plan he offered "years ago" to consider collecting a 25-cent toll for all vehicles that drive up Marin Avenue.

He later said "I've brought it up to the traffic study groups a couple of times, in a sense facetiously, in a sense not."

Cain said, "we're always looking for ways to solve problems, and (this suggestion) solves a couple of them. It solves the funding problem," he said, and would make the avenue a

"less desirable route" for Berkeley residents in the hills as well.

Council members smiled, and a few chuckled, at the suggestion, one that seemed to bring a smile to the usually dour Cain as well.

After a discussion, all council members agreed that as a first step, it was best to go with the plan proposed by city staff and Fehr & Peers.

According to the firm's report, that plan, once implemented, will also guarantee longer travel time for pedestrians crossing Marin Avenue, and provide for the installation of new push buttons on the street signals—ones that would be larger and easier to use.

Though the staff report said \$40,000 has been "identified" to be used to implement such a plan, according to the firm's projected cost analysis, \$75,000 is needed for the project. Ridgway said "additional sources of income" have been identified by his firm.

Shortly after the council vote, Ridgway demonstrated his relief to Albany Community Development Director Ann Chaney across the council chambers, an expression both seemed to share.

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Section B

Track Albany's Nakasato sisters run in JACL Junior Olympics [B2]

Arts Patch Adams, Wavy Gravy to chat in Berkeley [B4]

Between the Lines

By Mike McGreehan

Good hitters reach for the cosmic stars

Back in the late 1970s, Dave Parker put together three consecutive seasons that most baseball players would envy.

In 1977, he was the National League doubles, hits and batting champion. In 1978, Parker won the NL total bases, slugging and batting titles. He was also the league's Most Valuable Player that year.

Parker then reached a zenith in 1979. He not only made a brilliant defensive play in the All-Star Game, but was a key player throughout the season as the Pirates went on to win the World Series.

Amazingly, Parker accomplished all of this despite a major baseball handicap. He is a Gemini.

According to a study by baseball researcher and author John B. Holway, Gemini aren't supposed to enjoy the kind of success Parker had in his prime.

Holway conducted his study through the 1986 season. His essay was one of collection released by the Society of American Baseball Research in a book called, "The National Pastime."

Though I've never been a gung-ho follower of astrology, I don't purely dismiss it either.

See COLUMN, Page B2



IAN GORDON powers through the ball for the El Cerrito Pony League. Gordon is one of eight players from last year's Broncos all-stars who are now playing for the Pony League 13-year-old all-stars.

Pony League all-stars ride together

Continuity is key for El Cerrito 13s

By Peter Mentor

The idea was to keep everyone together and it makes sense.

El Cerrito has two Pony League all-star teams heading into the upcoming Pony League sectional tournament and hopefully beyond. One all-star team is made up of 14-year-old players, while the other is all 13-year-old players.

Under Pony League rules for a sanctioned tournament, the older team could have some of the better 13-year-olds, but that would have separated a group of kids who have been together for years.

"We had a discussion about this because there was a push to split them up," said Harry Gordon, who is a coach for the EC Pony 13 team. "We decided to keep them together. These kids have played with each other for about six years, since Pinto League."

Gordon knows these players well. He was the manager of the Pony League champion Hawks this season, yet it was his experience last year with the Bronco League all-stars that was key in the discussion.

Last year Gordon's El Cerrito Bronco all-star team was one step away from the Bronco World Series. After winning the sectional and regional tournaments, El Cerrito dropped an 8-6 loss decision to Hawaii in a game that sealed that team's fate. Hawaii went on to the Pony League World Series and lost to eventual champion Taiwan.

Eight players from that El Cerrito Bronco all-star team make up the majority of the Pony 13-year-old all-star team this year. Those same eight players got a glimpse of what can come in the Pony

See PONY, Page B2

Zeier's football plans take a right turn

Former Albany athlete gets drafted by the A's, but still plans to QB for Laney

By Scott Strain

Some athletes try to plan their careers around getting drafted by the pros. They pick the right sport, the right school, the right coaches, the right camps. They will do anything to be noticed.

For former Albany High all-around athlete Billy Zeier, it just happened.

Zeier is all set up to step up and become the starting quarterback for Laney College, a position he had shared last year. He has an excellent chance to be Laney's starter for the 1999 season.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the football field: the Oakland A's drafted Zeier in the 45th round of the amateur draft held earlier this month. So now baseball has entered Zeier's career mix.

"I was surprised," Zeier said about being drafted. "I didn't play that much baseball last season. I was the fourth or fifth outfielder on the team. The coach (Rob Willson) wanted to highlight his (sophomore) outfielders. That was OK with me."

Zeier's immediate plans haven't changed. He'll be the Laney quarterback (practice started Tuesday), but his athletic future is now thrown into question. "I was in a football mode for a long time," Zeier said. "That's where I thought my future would be; college and such. Now I don't know. This has thrown a monkey wrench into my plans."

The 45th position in the draft is nothing to write home about; it has "project" written all over it. Zeier was a raw but talented athlete at Albany High. Now at a community college under a strict taskmaster, he is learning the mental and physical discipline it takes to succeed in athletics.

Zeier did have some premonition he was going to be drafted. "Coach Willson told me that I had the tools to get drafted and he told me he would get me drafted," Zeier said. "He (Willson) said 'I'll get somebody to come out and look at you.'"

That somebody was A's scout Will Schock, who came out and caught a couple of Zeier's infrequent starts and apparently came away impressed. "He said I had potential and that I was fast and had power, two of things they are looking for," Zeier said. He hit .300 in limited appearances for the Eagles, who made the state tournament.

Zeier had already had a tryout with the Arizona Diamondbacks right out of high school and was invited to a tryout with

"Football is where I thought my future would be in college and such. Now I don't know. This has thrown a monkey wrench into my plans."

— Billy Zeier

two other athletes at Laney. "It was sort of like a combine," he said. "They had me run to first, throw from right field to third base to test arm strength and also had a lot of batting practice using a wooden bat."

The A's, of course, didn't guarantee he would be drafted, but they took the chance.

His opportunity with the A's won't come this season. He'll stay at Laney and play football and baseball there. Zeier said that Willson has projected him as a starting outfielder, but would not make any promises. "He told me that he wasn't going to recruit any outfielders this year, so I would at least be a contender for a spot," Zeier said.

Zeier spent his summer playing baseball on a team in Berkeley and is slowly working his arm back into football shape. He injured his shoulder during the Laney baseball season diving for a ball and said he landed "goofy" on it. But it is nothing he can't overcome.

Known for his spontaneous forays with the football during his freshman year, both to the benefit and detriment of the team, Zeier vows to play more in control this season. "I've got a long way to go and I'm far from perfection," he said. "I'll play more under control and make more right decision. I'm not going to hesitate to run, I'm just going to pick my spots a little better."

"Hopefully, the starting position is mine to lose."

Zeier won't get a big head about all his athletic success at Laney. "Football coach Stan Peters walked by me the other day," Zeier said, "and asked me 'How the hell did you get drafted sitting on the bench?'"

Oh well, some athletes never get any



EAST BAY MUSTANGS (l-r) David Collister (Albany High), Jason Moore (Berkeley High) and Chris Alfert (St. Mary's High) are among the local players having fun this summer playing in the Connie Mack League.

Boys of summer having some fun

Berkeley, St. Mary's, Albany contribute talent Mustangs

By Peter Mentor

The East Bay Mustangs have a simple motto: Have fun, play a little baseball.

That pretty much sums up the ideal summer for members of this Connie Mack Baseball team, which draws players from all over the area, including Berkeley, St. Mary's and Albany.

The team plays almost every day with a schedule of 40 games in 40 days. There are seven double headers thrown into the mix, creating a few off days. But unlike high school baseball where three games in a week is excessive, these guys are out to play as much ball as they can.

So far the Mustangs record stands at 7-6 overall (going into Wednesday's game against Alameda). The team had won four of its last five games before getting spanked by Fremont 22-2 on Tuesday.

The Fremont game, played at Ohlone College in Fremont, was an aberration that will be long forgotten by the end of summer. Fremont is made up of mostly 18-year-old players, while the Mustangs are a lot younger.

"They are a very good team," said Mustangs manager Chris Robison of Fremont. "We have played well against all the other teams. We are a young team. We only have five 18-year-olds. Next year we'll be really good."

Robison wants his team to win this year, but the main focus is for these players to get a lot of playing time over the summer and to have fun doing it.

Baseball junkies

Four players from this area are on the team, including Berkeley High players Jason Moore and Eli Flushman, St. Mary's High's Chris Alfert and Albany High's David Collister. None of these guys can get enough baseball.

Moore is Robison's kind of guy — a player with the game running through his veins.

"He just wants to play baseball. That's all he's ever wanted to do," said Robison about Moore. "He's a very good ball player, very heady. He hits the ball to all fields."

Flushman is a guy who didn't get a lot

of chances playing at Berkeley High, but he's getting plenty of chances here.

"In my 23 years of coaching he's one of the best," said Robison of Flushman. "He's not physical, but he works real hard. He's the kind of team leader you want on a team. He makes the team successful. He hits real well for us and he never had a chance to hit in high school. The people who love him are the East Bay Mustangs."

Collister also fits in the Robison mold of a successful player. The Mustangs manager picks players who love to play and who like to work hard at the game.

"Collister is a big kid," said Robison. "He just has to fill into his body. He has a real nice swing and he can play a lot of positions. He works real hard at his game."

Then there is Alfert, a guy who at 5-foot-8 doesn't put a lot of fear into opposing players — until they see what he can do.

"Alfert is a man of amazing physical talents," said Robison. "He has incredible foot speed and tremendous physical abil-

See MUSTANGS, Page B2

Sisters on the run

Pair fuel resurgence of Albany High track

By Mike McGreehan

More than 400 track and field athletes from around the Bay Area came to Chabot College in Hayward on June 6 when the Japanese-American Citizens League held its 47th annual Junior Olympics.

Two of those athletes hail from Albany. In fact, they live under one roof. They are the Nakasato sisters, Lauren and Karen.

Lauren Nakasato, who recently completed her freshman year at Albany High School, competed in the 100- and 200-meter runs as well as the 1,600 relay.

Karen Nakasato, who just finished sixth grade, ran in the 400 relay for her age division.

Karen and her teammates ended up winning that race.

Overall, both sisters were part of a winning team. The East Bay team won the meet for the fourth straight

year with 452 points, edging second-place San Mateo with 435. San Francisco took third with 361, followed by Sequoia (300), San Jose (296) and Eden (212).

"I didn't expect the competition to be that good," said Lauren. "But I was impressed."

At Albany High, Lauren is a pioneer of sorts. She competed this spring on the Cougars' track team — the first track team organized by the school in nine years.

"It was actually really fun," Lauren said of her fledgling high school team. "We've got a great coach — his name is Pope Powell — and it was really special to part of this after so long without track. Everyone was really supportive. I thought we had a pretty successful year."

For young athletes such as Lauren, events such as the JACL Junior Olympics help them to maintain or even further their skills while not com-

peting for their schools.

The Junior Olympics, though, weren't solely for high school students. Competition was available for athletes 8-under. There was even a 25-year race for toddlers.

And though sponsored by the JACL, the Junior Olympics were open to youngsters of all races and ethnicities.

Lauren, competing in the girls Division II age bracket (15-up), took second place in the 100 at 13.95 seconds. She was fourth in the 200 at 30.53. She also helped the East Bay 1,600 relay team captured second place (4:49.00).

In Division IV (11-12), Karen Nakasato combined with Julia Chiang, Christine Hironaka and Claire Menke to win the 400 relay in 1:02.35.

The East Bay's Allison Hom was named the outstanding athlete of the meet with four first-place finishes.

Albany is baseball central

City plays host to Little League tournaments

By Scott Strain

If you want little league baseball, the place to be this summer is in Albany.

According to Albany Little League president Rex Higginbotham, the city will play host to 29 Tournament of Champions and District all-star games in the next month. These include everything from Little Minors (ages 9-12) to Senior League (15-16) games.

"We have had a good year and we have a couple of teams that could do very well in the tournaments," Higginbotham said.

In the Little League Major Division (ages 11-12) and in the Junior League (13-14), the championship games will be held in Albany.

Local teams are entered in both di-

visions; the Albany American team (Cardinals) in the Majors could win the title and not have to leave home. They have a first-round game on Saturday at 11 a.m. against the winner of today's game between Antioch East No. 2 and Lafayette. That game will also be played in Albany starting at 6 p.m.

In the same division, Albany National (Braves) will have a first-round game against the Piedmont-Oakland Little League team today at 6 p.m. in Walnut Creek.

In the Little League Minors, Albany American (Orioles) had an opening-round game against Lafayette on Wednesday at East Antioch. The Albany Nationals (Twins) play Friday against Concord American at Albany at 6 p.m.

In the Junior League, the Oaks have a first-round game Saturday at home at 11 a.m. against the winner of today's game between Antioch East No. 2 and Concord American. That game will be in Albany starting at 6 p.m.

All-star play begins in July. Higginbotham believes that the Albany team has a shot to be something really special.

"This team will have a good shot at every position," he said. "At the age level, you can't tell what's going to happen. But this one could be good." The Albany team plays in Martinez No. 1 on Thursday.

But that's getting ahead of what's happening now. There is plenty of league baseball going on right now and a lot of it is happening in Albany.

Pony

FROM PAGE B1

League tournaments.

"We were in Witter the same time the Pinole team was playing in the Pony 13 Zone tournament in Fullerton," said Gordon.

"The (Pony League) stadium was unbelievable. It was a small professional stadium made just for kids. They had a Jumbotron in the outfield. It was big time. Everything was first class."

In Fullerton the Broncos had a meager field by comparison. After seeing what was ahead for the Pony League tournament, the El Cerrito kids wanted to be there this year.

So the 13's will stay on one team and the 14's on another.

The younger group begins its double-elimination tournament this Sunday at Fernandez Park in Pinole.

There are nine teams in the Pony 13 tournament and the top two teams move on to the regional tournament in Morgan Hill.

After that comes the Zone tournament, which includes teams from all over the Western United States. From that point the 13's and 14's split.

There is no Pony League World Series for 13-year-olds, but there is for the 14-year-old kids.

Pony League president Adam Gruen is managing the 13-year-old team, with Gordon and Jim McSweeney as his coaches.

This team has a huge array of

pitchers who will have to play other positions when they are not on the mound.

Ian Gordon (Hawks), Greg Murray (Tigers) and Jack McSweeney (Falcons) are the three starting pitchers. Gordon plays catcher, Murray is a catcher and shortstop, and McSweeney plays shortstop and the outfield as well.

Daniel Gruen (Tigers) and Erik Johnson (Tigers) are both pitcher/first basemen. Ryan Eleck (Mets) is another pitcher.

Robert Diaz (Hawks) is at second base. Dennis Braxton (Mets) and Bobby Gordon (Mets) are at third.

In the outfield are Steele Nakamoto (Royals) in right, Tyler Lohman (Tigers) in center, and Rolando Ramirez (Mets) is also in right field.

Daniel Czernilofski (Falcons) was named to the team, but he is in Europe for the summer.

Leadoff hitter Spencer Selak (Falcons) is also out of town and won't be able to play.

Of those guys on the team, Diaz, Eleck, Ian Gordon, Johnson, McSweeney, Murray, Nakamoto and Gruen were all part of that successful Bronco team.

This same group is hoping to stay together to reach the Pony League World Series next year.

El Cerrito would like to do things the easy way — win four games and move on the next tournament.

"You play four games and you win," said Harry Gordon. "You lose and you're playing an extra three or

four games. You want to stay on that."

Even though the top two teams move on in the 13-year-old tournament, Gordon says its fun to have the trophies for first place.

Pony 14

The 14-year-old all-star tournament managed by Mike Sommers and Herb Miller as one of his coaches. That team doesn't play in other weeks.

The roster has 11 spots so far that could expand to 15 by the final round of the tournament.

The team includes Randy (Royals), David Greenstein (Sox), DeAndre Miller (Hawks), Adam Kronenberg (Red Sox), Nation (Tigers), Sebastian (Red Sox), Greg Morales (Hawks), Nick Gray (Mets), Matt Tomals (Hawks), Kevin Sommers (Hawks), Harold Leuders (Royals).

Mix is a pitcher who can play shortstop and third. Greenstein is the ace on the mound and can play anywhere on the field. Those will most likely switch off with the 2 and 3 hitting spots with Morales and Leuders.

Kronenberg plays second base, Nation either pitcher or plays shortstop and Sommers shortstop as well.

Miles is strictly a pitcher. Leuders and Gray can either play the outfield.

Toma is a pitcher who will play duties catching with Morales and Morales are both power

Mustangs

FROM PAGE B1

ity. He is very mature physically beyond his peers. He is a good kid who works hard and he can hit."

Alfret showed he can hit last Saturday when he parked one over the 35-foot fence in left-center field at Contra Costa College. That dinger came off Skyline High pitcher John Thane, who plays his summer ball with the North Oakland Smoke.

The Smoke is one of the Mustangs

main rivals. Many of the Smoke and Mustang players know each other from Little League and high school baseball.

The Smoke won that game 4-3, but it could have gone either way. Thane had a key strikeout of the Mustang's Jordan Cathey (O'Dowd) with bases loaded in the top of the fourth inning.

The Smoke tied the game in the sixth when Flushman made a diving stab at a flare behind the shortstop, but could not reach. The go-ahead run came on a two-out, bases loaded walk after a 3-2 count to John Baker of the Smoke. It was a close call that made

a world of difference.

The Mustangs had a shot at in the seventh when Cathey and Flushman hit back-to-back singles. Matt Tomlin (Miramonte) hit a pop-up behind second base and the Smoke's Bob Saunders was able to force Flushman at second base. A pop-up to second by Ted Keams (O'Dowd) ended the game.

Highlights of the season so far include winning three of four in doubleheaders South Lake Tahoe and Reno, a 4-3 win over Alameda and a 7-5 victory over Mountain View, a sweep of Redding last Sunday in another doubleheader.

Column

FROM PAGE B1

You see, I had a birthday recently. Like Parker, I am a Gemini. And thanks to Holway's research, I can now explain why I never enjoyed success on the baseball diamond. It just wasn't in the stars for me.

To be sure, some Geminis have compiled great baseball careers. Parker's career went into an abyss in the early '80s. But others have enjoyed more sustained success.

Lou Gehrig died in 1941, but he lives on as the model of success for us Geminis. Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive games, a record that stood for 56 years before Cal Ripken (a Virgo) surpassed it in 1995. Gehrig's record of 23 career grand slams still stands.

Gehrig also had 1,995 RBI, scored 1,888 runs and hit 493 career home runs to lead all Geminis in those categories. Maybe that's why I like the movie "Pride of the Yankees" so much. Maybe a good sequel would be entitled, "Pride of the Geminis."

All humor aside, Gehrig was an exceptional talent among all players, not just Geminis. It's just that Gemini hasn't produced much exceptional talent.

According to Holway, Gemini had produced the fewest home run champions and was tied with Scorpio for the second fewest batting champions. Again, Holway's essay only goes through the 1986 season. But when extending that research through 1998, little change occurs.

On the plus side, Wade Boggs added two batting titles for Gemini while Andres Galaraga and Frank Thomas had one apiece. Gemini, now with 17 batting champions, has moved ahead of Scorpio. The latter now has 15 thanks to Willie McGee in 1990 and Gary Sheffield two years later.

Edgar Martinez has carried the torch for lowly Capricorn, as his two batting championships in the past 12 seasons have raised his sign's total to 11. At the other end of the spectrum, Tony Gwynn has added seven more titles since 1986 to put Taurus out of reach. Add in George Brett's 1990 title, and those born under the sign of the bull now have given baseball 34 batting champions.

While it's true that births are not evenly distributed over the calendar, the findings are still interesting. And the uneven distribution of births still does not fully explain why Taurus batters have twice as many titles as Gemini and more than three times that of Capricorn.

For Gemini, the news hardly gets better in terms of home runs. In the 12 years since Holway's original study, only one player — Galaraga — has added his name to the list of Gemini home run leaders. That number now stands at seven.

A closer look at last year's great home run race reveals that Mark McGwire is a Libra and Sammy Sosa a Scorpio. Ken Griffey Jr., who hit a league-leading 56 home runs for a second straight year in the American League, is also a Scorpio. Jose Canseco, who finished with a career-high 46 last year, is a Cancer.

McGwire and Sosa both surpassed the previous record set by Roger Maris, a Virgo, in 1961. Maris hit 61 that year while Yankees teammate Mickey Mantle, a Libra, finished second with 54.

It might be worth noting that — surprise, surprise — Jim Gentile, a Gemini, finished tied for third in the 1961 AL home run race with Harmon Kille-

brew, a Cancer. Both players had 46. Rocky Colavito, a Leo, finished with 45. Orlando Cepeda, a Virgo, led the NL that year with 46.

But so much for single-season power stats. Of the 15 players to hit at least 500 career home runs, none is a Gemini. For the record, Libra has the most 500-plus home run hitters with four — Mike Schmidt, Mantle, Jimmie Fox and Eddie Mathews. But the top two players in this category — Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth — were both born under the sign of Aquarius. Most interestingly, Aaron's birthday is Feb. 5 and Ruth's was Feb. 6. Could it be that the moon was in the seventh house and Jupiter aligned with Mars for both those guys?

Elsewhere, Lou Brock is the only Gemini among the 21 players to reach 3,000 hits. Boggs will add to that number this year, and Gwynn will soon put Taurus even with Aries for the lead with four apiece. Also this season, Ripken should become the third Virgo to reach this lofty plateau.

By the way, the 3,000-hit club only has one Aquarius (Aaron) and one Scorpio (Stan Musial). OK, so the Geminis have it a tad better than others in some ways. But just a tad.

When it comes to pitching, though, just about everybody has it over the Geminis. None of the 11 pitchers with 3,000 or more career strikeouts is a Gemini. Holway also found that Gemini pitchers have the worst collective ERA in big league history.

Through 1986, only nine Gemini pitchers had won their league's ERA title. Through 1998, the number of Gemini ERA champions remained at nine. That's right — in that 12-year span, not a single Gemini had stepped up to lead either league. In fact, a Gemini has not led a league in ERA since Dean Chance turned the trick with the Los Angeles Angels in 1964. Hmm — maybe they should make a movie about Chance, too.

But thanks to Holway, I now understand why I could never get a pitch over the plate. I just wish I would have known this when I was a kid.

If I had known all of this, I could have explained every bobbled grounder, every misjudged fly ball and every strikeout to my coaches and teammates. But if any of them are reading this now, let me just say this. It wasn't my fault, guys. I am a Gemini. And that more than makes up for being a bad baseball player. Well, doesn't it, guys?

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Fri., 7/2 Sheena Easton

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Arts

Children's choir's absence a loss for East Bay festival

By Georgia Rowe

WHEN THE Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival starts next week in the East Bay, it will be without a choir from China. The originally scheduled Fu Yu Choir has withdrawn from the event due to political reasons.

Festival Artistic Director Bob Geary says the Chinese government gave no official reason for revoking the choir's visas, but organizers believe the move was tied to China's anger over U.S. involvement in the Kosovo conflict.

The Beijing-based choir would have been the first Chinese ensemble ever to sing in the biennial festival, which was founded in 1991 by Geary's Piedmont Chorus. With events planned around the East Bay, the festival runs from Tuesday through June 26.

At the festival's office in Oakland, Geary expressed dismay over the sudden withdrawal.

"It's a real loss," said Geary. "Our executive director, Susan Rahl, has had a correspondence with this choir for over a year to help them through the process and get them here. Then to lose them at the last minute is a real disappointment."

Geary said there had been signs of trouble in past weeks, having to do with the festival's traditional opening procession and parade of flags.

"There was some question about whether they would go on-stage with the Taiwanese choir; they assured us that their children would be mightily offended by that," he says. "We had already agreed not to have the procession

of flags in order to avoid that."

Geary says that late withdrawals are not unprecedented. Earlier this month, a South African choir dropped out due to lack of funds, and a Hungarian ensemble withdrew two years ago for the same reason.

But Geary says this is the first time that a choir has canceled for such blatantly political reasons. It's ironic, says Geary, in view of the festival's goals of promoting international friendship and harmony through music.

"We find that the people of a country and their governments don't function at the same level," he says. "Children never have the bigotries that their governments have."

Geary says the festival will be "a little smaller, a little less diverse" as a result. But with more than 400 children coming from seven countries—Austria, Colombia, Hungary, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan and five choirs from the United States—there's still plenty to celebrate.

The opening concert is Tuesday at Oakland's Calvin Simmons Theater; a gala closing concert is June 26 at Zellerbach Hall on the UC-Berkeley campus. In between, there are free concerts on Wednesday at the Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, Berkeley's First Congregational Church, Holy Names College and Alameda's St. Joseph's Basilica, as well as events at the Oakland Museum, Jack London Square and Oakland's City Center.

Throughout, local choirs act as hosts for the visiting ensembles.

See CHOR, Page B4



Ellington tribute

THE 50-VOICE Oakland Jazz Choir presents "The King of All, Sir Duke," a tribute to jazz luminary Duke Ellington. The show will be held at Yoshi's in Jack London Square Friday, July 2, and Saturday, July 3. Cost \$15. Julie Ford directs. Call 510-238-9200.



Merchant coming

SHYLOCK (JOE VINCENT) is one of the dark characters in "The Merchant of Venice," which opens July 10 at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater in Orinda as part of the California Shakespeare Festival. Ken Kelleher directs. The play runs through Aug. 1. Call 510-548-9666.

Local saxophonist joins father in Jazz Hall of Fame

Oakland resident Bill Stewart Jr., an alto saxophonist with swing sensation Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, was inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame in Columbus, Ohio, with his father on June 5.

Stewart Jr. and the late William Stewart Sr., who also played the saxophone, became the Hall's first father-son duo to be inducted together, said Jackie Stewart, Bill's wife.

"It was really overwhelming for both of us," Jackie said.

Bill Stewart, 75, has been playing jazz for six decades.

The Columbus, Ohio native entered Dillard University in New Orleans in 1941, but quit two years later to tour the nation with his horn.

He toured with the Jay McShann Band, and later joined Jimmy Rushing, Benny Greene, Ike Day, Dorsey Donnigan and others.

See JAZZ, Page B4

Just how annoying is that Jar Jar Binks guy?

The 'Star Wars' Addicts Hotline has the answers to the questions you just have to ask

By Suzanne Condie Lambert

"Star Wars" Addicts Hotline. How may I help you?

Q: My roommate and I have a bet going, and maybe you can help. Could there possibly be anything more annoying than the new shuffling, baby-talking "Episode I" character, Jar Jar Binks?

A: Funny you should ask. The government recently commissioned a study by a blue-ribbon committee of scientists who concluded that the only thing more irritating to the average American adult than Jar Jar squealing "Da Force is MAXI big!" would be Barney the purple dinosaur, the entire cast of "Teletubbies" and selected personal-pronoun slaughtering "Sesame Street" Muppets jumping on a brand-new mattress in a room filled with precious glass figures while alternately humming on

plastic-wrap-covered songs, reciting lyrics from poison bombs and shrieking madly while running gummy fingers over various fine fabrics and expensive papers.

Either that or Fran Drescher.

Q: But what about kids?

A: Adults generally think kids are annoying, too.

"Star Wars" Addicts Hotline. How can we help?

Q: I've been hearing a lot about how bad Jake Lloyd, the child actor who played young Anakin Skywalker, was in "Episode I." Is that true?

A: While we're reluctant to criticize the kid, let's just say that Lloyd, who seems more suited to a community college production of "Oliver!" than the linchpin of an epic space saga, makes the Olsen twins from "Full House" look like

"Masterpiece Theatre" material.

■ ■ ■

"Star Wars" Addicts Hotline. What's the deal?

Q: I think I might be suffering from some form of "Star Wars" overexposure. How can I tell?

A: Here are some signs of "Star Wars" addiction to look for:

■ "Using the Force" is your favorite euphemism for going to the bathroom.

■ You seriously think the Defense Department should spend less on developing stealth bombers and more on inventing a working lightsaber that "makes that cool 'whoosh' sound."

■ Your action figure collection is worth more than your house.

■ Your girlfriend has shrunk 4 inches since you started making her wear 50-pound Queen Amidala-style headdresses around the

house.

■ You're already working on your Halloween costume: Darth Maul, because "the chicks dig him."

■ You got into a fistfight with a mean group of Trekkies over the question "Who would win in a fight: Khan or Boba Fett?"

■ When you go to an Italian restaurant, you order Boba Fett-uccine.

■ They not only give you the Boba Fett-uccine, they bring for dessert an order of Obi-Wan canolis.

■ You think that tomorrow, you'll get Jabba ghanouji and some C-3P-Oreos.

■ You wish people would lay off Jar Jar Binks already: The kid's got potential.

Write to Suzanne Condie Lambert at picagirl@aol.com.

HOT SHEET!

■ Patch Adams. Helen Cairdott and Wary Gravy will share stories at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 27, at the Berkeley Community Theater. 1990 Alston Way. Cost: \$12, or \$15 at the door. Call 510-845-7382.

■ California Shakespeare Festival presents the Bard's first romantic comedy "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater. Ed Hastings directs. Through July 4.

■ The Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley presents a Fourth of July cruise from 7:30 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. View Bay Area fireworks from the water. Call 510-642-5134.

EVENTS

Berliner Ensemble

On July 1-2, 8 p.m., the Berliner Ensemble presents "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui" by Bertolt Brecht in German with English supertitles.

Fifty years after its founding by playwright Brecht, the controversial German theater group, The Berliner Ensemble, will make its long-awaited, U.S. debut. Written specifically for American audiences in 1941, Brecht's masterpiece is still relevant today, a powerful, witty and incisive parable about the building blocks of demagoguery.

Tickets are \$24.00, \$38.00 and \$45.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; and at the door.

Tickets are also available through all BASS outlets. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC-Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount.

On July 2 at 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Brecht and the Berliner Ensemble: Legacies and Instigation's will be presented

Fairlyland Summerfest

Children's Fairlyland celebrates its annual Summerfest with focus on arts and crafts. Artists from around the Bay Area will transform the Merry Meadow into an artists' meadow. Children can participate in hands-on activities and create a huge sidewalk chalk mural. Children will also be invited to put on their own puppet show at the puppet petting zoo.

Short Attention Span Circus will amaze visitor's with an astounding juggling and balancing show at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on July 10. Uncle Ira, the Singing Storyteller, will perform on the Emerald City Stage at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on July 11.

Fairlyland Personalities, the park's children's theater group, will present "The Wizard of Oz" at noon and 3 p.m. The Storybook Puppet Theater will present "Peter and the Wolf," at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.

Julia Morgan Theater

June Is Julia Morgan American Broadway Music Festival Month.

Each Saturday through July 3 there are special 8 p.m. shows at the Julia Morgan Theater celebrating different facets of American Music. There are also some Friday and Sunday shows.

Shows honor, in order, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, The Gospel, Richard Rodgers, and New Orleans Jazz. Buffets before the theater are available to the public at 7 p.m., for \$7 only by reservation.

Ticket prices are \$10-\$25. Many private cocktail parties are being given before the event.

Also, applications can now be made by performing groups for the competition to perform in the Y2K June Festival to the Julia Morgan Theater and the fall 1999 mini Broadway festival scheduled for the weekends of Nov. 5 and 13.

There are still seats available for each performance for pre-booking at 883-7018.

40 tickets for each show are reserved for door customers at \$5 over presale prices.

For more information, call George Oram at 883-7001.

Perseverance In Space and Mass

Oakland-based artist, Joseph Farais, founded the Perseverance In Space And Mass Foundation in December, 1998. Established as a non-profit organization, the goal is to bring free art education to all children, underprivileged and otherwise.

The mission statement is to pro-

See EVENTS, Page B4

Patch Adams, Wavy Gravy land in Berkeley

Three influential icons whose di- version from mainstream America earned them worldwide recognition, will join forces for a discussion in Berkeley.

The trio— Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams, Dr. Helen Caldicott and Wavy Gravy— will discuss their lives and swap stories during a chat at the Berkeley Community Theater on Sunday, June 27.

The 1998 film "Patch Adams," in which Robin Williams stars as a goofy and rebellious medical student-turned

DISCUSSION

- Who: Patch Adams, Helen Caldicott and Wavy Gravy
- What: a discussion
- When: 7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 27
- Where: Berkeley Community Theater, 1930 Allston Way
- Cost: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door
- Call: 510-845-7382

doctor, helped put the popular physi- cian back in vogue.

Adams, who has called himself "a pie in the face of the American medical establishment," has dedicated his life to offering free health care. Adams founded the Gesundheit Institute, a free health care facility, in Virginia in 1971. He is the author of "Gesundheit! Bringing Good Health Care to You, the Medical System and Society through Physician Service, Complementary Therapies, Humor and Joy." Caldicott, 69, is one of the world's

leading anti-nuclear activists.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Caldicott founded Physicians for Social Responsibility, which won the Nobel Prize for peace in 1985.

Wavy Gravy, a colorful '60s comic, joined World Health Organization leaders to create Seva, an interna- tional medical aid group. A limited amount of Golden Circle tickets, \$60- \$100, entitles purchasers to priority seating and a pre-show reception hosted by the trio from 4-6 p.m. at Anna's Restaurant in Berkeley.

Choirs

FROM PAGE B3

hosts for the visiting ensembles. That's part of what makes the festi- val special, Geary says.

For a complete schedule of festi- val activities, call 510-547-4441, ext. 5, or visit www.wenet.net/~singers.

PIANIST JON NAKAMATSU re- turns to the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts this weekend for a concert with the Pro Art Sym- phony. At 7 p.m. Sunday, the Van Cliburn gold medalist will perform Chopin's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11." James Gardner con- ducts.

Last time he appeared with the orchestra, Nakamatsu left the audi- ence cheering with his performance of Rachmaninoff's "Third Piano Concerto."

The Mountain View pianist, who took first place in the Van Cliburn International Competition in 1996, has toured the world since then, playing the Lincoln Center in Wash- ington, D.C., the Deutsches Sym- phonie-Orchester in Berlin, Theatre du Chatelet in Paris and Queen Eliz- abeth Hall in London.

He made his Carnegie Hall debut last October. Tickets for Sunday's concert, which also includes Rach- maninoff's "The Isle of the Dead" and Richard Strauss' "Dance of the

Seven Veils" from "Salome," are available at 925-943-SHOW.

"CARMEN," IN ENGLISH? Yes, now you can hear Bizet's classic opera of passion and betrayal sung in a new English translation by Pocket Opera's Donald Pippin. With mezzo-soprano Rachel Michelberg in the title role and tenor Michael Licciardello as Don Jose, the new production comes to the Regional Center for the Arts for one perfor- mance at 2 p.m. Sunday.

"Carmen," which closes Pocket Opera's 22nd season, also plays June 27 at Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco. For the Walnut Creek performance, call 925-943-SHOW; for San Francisco, call 415-575-

1102. Or visit Pocket Opera's Web site at www.pocketopera.org.

FREEBIE OF THE MONTH: The San Francisco Symphony's fabulous Stravinsky Festival ends June 26. But if you miss it, you can still catch Michael Tilson Thomas and the or- chestra at the Stern Grove Festival, 2 p.m. June 27.

Tilson Thomas will lead Stravi- nsky's arrangement of "The Star-Span- gled Banner," as well as the composer's "Circus Polka," "Scherzo a la Russe" and "Symphony in Three Movements."

It's free, but arrive early for lawn seating, and bring a blanket or low beach chair. For more information, call 415-252-6252 or visit www.stern-grove.org.

Mann

FROM PAGE B3

the determined widow of a slain Al- banian Kosovar human-rights activist last week. It ran 10 full minutes.

"Newshour" also picks up strong news packages from British and other overseas correspondents that other- wise wouldn't be seen in the U.S.

But "Newshour," to these eyes any- way, also has some glaring weak- nesses. I've watched this serious- minded show almost nightly for 15 years. Perhaps the most glaring defi- ciency is the show's inside-the-Belt- way mindset and its insistence on giv- ing blow-by-blow reports on the latest Capitol Hill foolishness and treachery.

My premise is that the further one is from Washington, the less one cares about Capitol Hill and its dreary business. Remember the old adage that the two things you never want to watch being made are laws and sausages?

I find the show's punditry tire- some, especially regular political analysts Mark Shields and Paul Gigot. These two do present thoughtful analyses, but it's a game most of us know all too well and tired of many years ago. Ergo, the success of a non-politician like Jesse Ventura. Lehrer asked this

pair the other night how George W. Bush and Al Gore looked on the opening day of their presidential campaigns. C'mon...the election is over a year away, already! Surely only a hard-core political junkie could have cared about round one.

My other cavil about "New- shour" is its racially and geographi- cally balanced—and insufferably pompous and boring—panel of re- gional commentators. This handful of op-ed page worthies reminds one again why most newspaper people eschew television, although one suspects that the op-ed pieces writ- ten for their newspapers by these five tiresome people are every bit as stultifying as their televised pro- nouncements.

And most "Newshour" regular essayists, like Anne Taylor Fleming, generally add worthwhile perspec- tive and insight at the show's con- clusion. One, Roger Rosenblatt, did a touching piece recently after the death of his longtime Washington Post colleague and mentor, colum- nist Meg Greenfield.

But one regular essayist, San Francisco-based Richard Rodriguez, files essays that are relentlessly downbeat and often trite. In one re- cent piece on Silicon Valley, Ro- driguez opined, "What darkens my enthusiasm for the technology of

this place is its disconnection from our flesh-and-blood lives." (This has been duly noted many times).

He continues, "the longer people use the computer, the lonelier they become." Puh-lease. (I'm near the bottom of this column, and I don't feel any lonelier than when I started.) But in general, and with the above exceptions, "Newshour" gives important stories, especially international ones, the time and analysis they deserve daily. And no one else in television is doing that.

MULTIMEDIA NOTES: Several East Bay readers, reacting to my col- umn last week about online trading, have written that they're hooked, too. Elizabeth L., from Oakland, is not atypical. She e-mails, "I may not be a day trader, but I'm afraid I've become a daily one." ...One Alameda reader, Harold S., says, "I ran up \$350 in brokerage commissions last month, and I'm not even a day trader." And several Hills readers echoed my com- ments about the great job Yahoo! Fi- nance does of giving investors timely and complete financial informa-

tion...PBS (stands for "Pledge Break System") is now feeding upon itself. First, of course, came the Three Tenors. Then we're awash in Irish dancing and "Riverdance." Now, this week, Channel 9 aired, "The Irish Tenors." Will "John Tesh's Antiques Roadshow" be next?...

Maybe all the warring "progres- sive" factions at Berkeley's KPFA would be better off if the station HAD been sold for the \$65 million that was dangled by a commercial broadcaster two years ago.

At the time, SF radio broker Chester Coleman commented, "Pacifica should just take the money and buy several smaller public stations." KPFA's great signal could probably fetch \$75 million now, and these various groups could each take a big chunk of the filthy lucre and just go buy their own radio stations/megaphones.

That would eliminate further ar- rests and gunplay. All power to the transmitter!

Events

FROM PAGE B3

vide an artistic curriculum that will challenge the capabilities of unlim- ited discovery.

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Fourth of July Cruise

Celebrate the final Independence Day of the century with the Lawrence Hall of Science with a July 4 bay cruise, 7:30-10:45 p.m.

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Proceeds from the cruise will benefit LHS educational programs. To make reservations call 642-5134.

Shakespeare Festival

Jazz

FROM PAGE B3

from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Bill, who moved to Oakland with his wife in the mid 1970s, has been likened to jazz luminary Charlie Parker.

"He plays so much like him," Jackie says of her husband. "Though Charlie Parker was very adept at cre- ating his own sound, a lot of Bill's riffs sound like his."

The elder Stewart, who was born in Columbus in 1900, played saxo-

The California Shakespeare Festival's 1999 season opens with Shakespeare's first romantic comedy, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." Through July 4, Ed- ings directs.

All performances are at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheatre, located in Orinda's Siera Valley.

The Bruns Memorial Amphithe- ater, is accessible from anywhere in the Bay Area. Just off the Golden Gate exit (Shakespeare Festival Way) Highway 24, one mile east of the Caldecott Tunnel.

Free parking is available and a complimentary shuttle will trans- port theatre-goers from and to the Orinda BART station. The Bruns wheelchair accessible.

Season subscription tickets range from \$78 to \$137 for adults, \$70 to \$137 for seniors (65 and older) and \$48 to \$137 for children (4-16); and single tickets range from \$21 to \$38 for adults, \$15 to \$38 for seniors, and \$10 to \$20 for children.

All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Festival Box Office at (510) 548-9666, or online at www.calshakes.org.

phone with a number of hit re- cords, including the Sammy Davis Jr. Orchestra.

Several years ago Bill Stewart joined Lavy Smith, whose 1978 CD, "One Hour Mama," has been a great success.

Bill, who recently returned to California, is not likely to leave his horn anytime soon.

"No," Jackie Stewart says. "I've always told him to retire. I've always told him a musician, always a musician, the wife of a musician, it's not personal—but his horn is No. 1."



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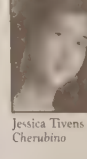
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Susanna



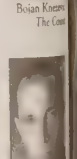
Christina Lamberti
The Countess



Jessica Tivens
Cherubino



Brian Lester
The Count



Brian Lester
Figaro

—Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts—

Sat July 10 • 8 p.m.

Includes gala reception following performance

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WATERFRONT/PLANNING COMMISSION JOINT MEETING

BERKELEY MARINA PLAN & WATERFRONT OVERVIEW

Wednesday June 23, 1999
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue

You are invited to attend a joint Commission meeting to discuss the Berkeley Marina Plan and Waterfront Overview. This is the second of two joint meetings to discuss the preliminary design concept for the Berkeley Marina. The first meeting was held on May 19, 1999. Additional information on the expenditures and revenues associated with the concept will be presented at this meeting. The preliminary design concept is based on community input from three public workshops and the recommendations of the Marina Plan Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is composed of representatives from the Waterfront and Planning Commissions.

A preferred design concept will be developed based on direction provided by the Waterfront and Planning Commissions and will be presented to the City Council for their review and approval.

For additional information please contact Karen Hane-Owens, City of Berkeley Planning and Development Department at 510-705-8137, TDD: 510-644-6915. Materials for the meeting will be available starting Monday, June 21st at the Planning and Development Department, 2118 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor

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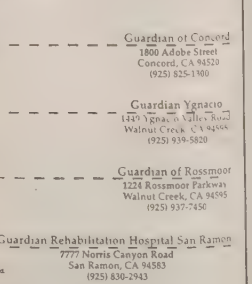
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Real Estate & Home

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmonter

June 24-25, 1999

Section C

Karen Senzig Borrowers win relief from personal mortgage insurance 'abuse' [C7]
Open Homes Move in quicker with our list from TitleTech [C14]

Bay Area green thumbs: How does your garden grow?

By Sean O'Hara
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Bay Area is bitten by the gardening bug — everyone wants a tranquil green oasis surrounding the homestead. But the data also show that most gardeners are somewhat disappointed, not only with garden they create, but also with those created for them. In an area rich in horticultural knowledge and with an incredible array of plants available, why would this be the case? Why don't our gardens thrive?

As a Bay Area native having observed and created gardens for more than 20 years, I see basic garden concepts too often overlooked. Here is a summary:

Know the climate

The Bay Area is part of California's Mediterranean climate — one of five worldwide which make up a mere 2 percent of the Earth's land mass. This rare but very desirable climate is well suited to human habitation and a variety of agriculture, including growing the world's best wine grapes.

It is no surprise that most of the people who now live in California came from other, very different climates, bringing their gardening sensibilities with them. They wish to create the gardens they re-

member back home, even though they are glad not to have the bad winter weather and humid summers.

Plants adapt closely to the climates in which they live, the weather patterns and local temperatures, so gardens here need to be different.

And as the Mediterranean climate is so rare, it is also true that good information about gardening in this climate is equally rare.

Most gardening books lining bookstore shelves and sitting on our coffee tables are written by authors gardening in climates unlike ours, where plants can behave quite differently.

The most commonly depicted garden ideal is that of the "English Garden." The best of this genre can be found in the moist and cool conditions of that coun-

See GARDENS, Page C13

BERKELEY'S CLAREMONT HOTEL boasts a sumptuous landscape that takes advantage of the local Mediterranean climate. Homeowners can achieve similar effects, though perhaps on a smaller scale.

JEFF LINDQUIST PHOTO



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Hand carved wood. Beams clinker brick fireplace & hearth, court garden. Plus backyard, extra large garage.
6010 Pinewood Jack Brenneman



CLAREMONT PINES A "TRUE FIND!".....\$550,000
Fab location! Bright traditional w/bay views. Elegant liv rm, FDR, family rm very light & sunny. Secluded rear yard.
6068 Margarido Adrienne Brochié

OPEN SUN. 2-4:30

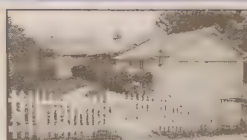
BERKELEY
561 WOODMONT.....\$550,000
4BR/3BA contemporary, Open Sun. 2-5
Mamoud Moktari

900 CEDAR ST.....\$239,000
2BR/2BA w/family rm. Open Sun. 2-4
3040 FULTON ST.....\$585,000
Brown shingle duplex + 2 units
Open Sun. 2-4 Linda Gerson

1047 CRESTON RD.....\$495,000
Spacious 3BR/2BA w/garden
Open Sun. 2-4:30 Diane Verducci



ENCHANTING BERKELEY BROWNSHINGLE.....\$550,000
Come home to this beautiful contemporary in a most sought after nrbhd in the Berk. hills! Magical setting! Indr/outr living! 4BR/3BA, in-law potential. Swim club membership incl.



SPACIOUS & SOLID IN BERKELEY.....\$495,000
Elegant level-in 3BR/2BA with Tilden vus! Will please anyone looking for space! Lg area with built-in carpenter's workshop! French doors lead to garden! 2-car garage!

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ALAMEDA'S FINEST.....\$449,000
Southshore executive home built by Ponderosa. Flexible floor plan, 3 car garage.
1043 Rosewood Kevin McMullen

CRAFTSMAN CHARM!
East end bungalow with stunning original detail, but newer kitchen & bath. The perfect blend of old & new. 3014 San Jose Kevin McMullen

LINCOLN HEIGHTS.....\$323,500
1st Open! Charming trad, updated kit, 3BR, 2.5BA incl. mst suite. Cozy fan rm, 2 car gar. Brick patio w/upper lvl yd. Some view. Special!
4109 Coolidge Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

BY APPOINTMENT

CUSTOM MASTERPIECE.....\$1,750,000
Located on a 3/4 acre bluff overlooking the greater Bay Area. 1800 views, indoor pool, waterfall, & private master suite. A true find!
George Karsant

HILL CREST ESTATES - ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS.....\$899,000
Need we say more about this 12 room French Colonial? Of course there are gated grounds, incredible vistas, private spa & sauna, Elegant flr design. A definite must see! Fritz Hochfellner

CROCKER HIGHLANDS.....\$429,000
Soaring beamed ceilings, gleaming hwd flrs, updated kit & BA, formal liv & din rms, lg plus rm & 3BR/2BA. Dell Orr

MAXWELL PARK.....\$235,000
Exciting remodeled home. Spacious 3BR/2BA with family room & bonus room. Wood floors/2 fireplaces. Joan Alford

OAKLAND-NEW LISTING.....\$279,000
Unique penthouse near Piedmont Avenue. 2+BR lots of outdoor living, views, 2 car parking. Generous living space. +++ Pat Whittingslow

PIEDMONT AVE.....\$199,000
Bring your paintbrush & tool box. Two story traditional with 3BR/1BA upstairs. Don't miss garage + fenced yard. George Karsant

BUILD YOUR OWN DREAM HOME.....\$132,000
Gentle down Slope lot with level pad. Great view of San Francisco, Bay & bridge. Close to parks shops & transportation. Darcy Diamantine

AUBANY

1221 BRIGHTON AVE - #3.....\$167,000
2BR/2BA condo, convenient location
Open Sun. 2-4 Henry Chang

MONTCLAIR

5741 SCARBOROUGH DR.....\$370,000
Pied Pines - Stunning Bay view with 4BR/3BA, fam rm, 2 frpls, au pair setting, vaulted ceiling, sunny & bright. Dell Orr
2335 MASTLANDS DR.....\$329,000
Totally refurbished, 4BR/2BA
Open Sun. 2-4 Rita Zwerdling

PIEDMONT

44 CREST ROAD.....\$1,642,000
Pied. English. Exceptional 4+BR/3.5BA w/a wonderful yard. Elegant mst suite, remod eat-in-kit, magnificent vaulted ceiling LR. Move right in. Dian Hymer

OAKLAND

4109 COOLIDGE.....\$323,500
Lincoln Hts 1st Open! Charming trad, updated kit, 2 car gar. Brick patio with upper level yard. Some view. Special. Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

3917 LINCOLN.....\$189,000
Fresh & Bright!, 2BR Laurel/Diamond bungalow, hwd floors, large eat-in kitchen, new roof, pest work done, deck, basement storage. Lani Dy

BERKELEY VICTORIAN DUPLEX + 2.....\$585,000
Two units in gorgeous Victorian, two more in rear! Near Elmwood & downtown. Upstairs unit is owner occupied, spacious & sunfilled! Rear units both 2 bedrooms. Large basement. Lovely yard & garden!

SUNSETS OVER THE BAY.....\$399,000
Sip your coffee on the deck of this home in the Berkeley hills. 4th flrdrm plus bonus room! Master suite & 2.5 bath. & a remodeled kitchen, & deep yard with level terrace.

VIEWS & SECLUSION IN MONTCLAIR.....\$329,000
Totally refurbished 4BR/2BA home! New paint, carpet & kitchen floor. Extra space. 3rd level development opportunity! Level-in!

WEST BERKELEY DUPLEX.....\$322,500
Super convenient area, near 4th Street shops, restaurants, & transportation. Both units 2BR, upstairs partially remodeled. Deep yard. Upstairs has deck & is vacant.

BAY VIEWS FROM MONTCLAIR.....\$310,000
2 story home in top area. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hwd floors & large master suite with deck.

NORTH BERKELEY BROWNSHINGLE.....\$265,000
Walk to North Berkeley shops & restaurant! Full of charm, beautiful floors throughout. 1+ BR, 1+ baths.

A RARE FIND IN KENSINGTON.....\$249,000
NEW LISTING! Beautiful vacant lot! Approximate 12,000 sq. ft. in great area. Build your dream home on this sloping lot. Seller financing available.

WALK TO 4TH ST. SHOPS.....\$239,000
NEW LISTING! Spacious, 2 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow with large downstairs family room! Fireplace with insert, dining area plus large yard with patio & 2 car garage! Needs a little TLC.

ENTERTAIN YOUR FRIENDS.....\$179,900
Spacious sun-filled home, 4BR+ den, near Mills College. Fully decorated, remodeled kitchen, refinished floors.

OCEANVIEW VICTORIAN!.....\$179,000
Whimsical remodel of early Victorian in popular West Berkeley! High ceilings, poplar, roses in garden, 2BR/1BA, near 4th St., Fanny's, Pyramid! Perfect starter!

ALBANY CONDO.....\$167,000
NEW LISTING! 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo conveniently located! Close to BART & shopping. Move-in condition!

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First-time buyers more educated, but passion same

No. 287 in a series
of true experiences in real estate

I bought my first house more than 30 years ago. I was so excited about having my own garden that I couldn't wait to plant it. Before my husband and I moved in, I got permission from the sellers to put a bed of irises by the front walkway.

There was another, cheaper, house we were interested in, but our agent nixed the idea. She was worried about the neighborhood. We were in our early 20s — innocent and optimistic — and didn't know enough to share (or confirm) our agent's concern, but we bowed to her wishes and made an offer on the house she felt was better located.

The house cost \$18,000, cheaper than some other houses because of the busy Berkeley street on which it was located. This was good because we couldn't afford more. In those days "everyone" got married and bought a house.

We'd been married a few years but it wasn't until my husband finished graduate school and got a teaching job that we could buy, and although the price seems a pittance today, it was a stretch for us to make the loan payments.

We borrowed the down payment from my parents, but there wasn't enough money to buy a refrigerator. A friend gave us an old one that still kept things cold but nothing frozen. The seller sold us the lime green living room rug. It was not what I would have picked, but it was clean and it made a soft place to sit on the floor.

We didn't like the kitchen in our house much, but we didn't cook a lot, so it was OK. We did have wonderful push-out windows, oak plank floors, and a fireplace. Plus there was



By Tarjoff and Talbert

a sunny garden space with a good-sized pear tree.

The contract then was a single page. It said, in essence, "We'll buy your house for \$18,000 if we can get a loan." The agent wrote it up in a few minutes and we signed just once at the bottom.

The agent also filled out our loan application, called several banks until she found the lowest interest rate (25 years, fixed rate, no choice), and that was that. Only a portion of my income was counted toward qualifying for the loan, as lenders in those days reasoned that I might get pregnant and have to stop working. In fact, I think I had to sign a paper stating that I was not pregnant at the time.

There was no such thing as having a house inspected before you bought it. We had a termite report but knew nothing of asbestos or earthquake proofing. There were no seller's disclosures or home warranties. It was pretty true in those days that if the roof leaked after the house was yours, either you found the money to fix it, or you lived with water on your floor.

Our agent told us we'd have to live in the house for at least five years before we'd be able to sell and

get our money back. I do remember that not long after we moved in, when BART was being planned, we were thrilled to find that a BART station was to be built within a few blocks of our house. We figured the proximity would eventually raise the value of our house.

As it turned out, about three years after moving in, we sold. BART had not yet arrived, and we did lose money, but we were never sorry we had bought the house.

We moved in and nested. I pored over home and garden magazines, and we changed things, not all of them for the better. For example, I decided to make over the bathroom. The paint store people told me I could paint the maroon ceramic tile with a special product. I followed the directions carefully but the result was not right. Though I thought the tile looked better white, the surface had an unsatisfactory ripply look to it.

My husband, who had never built anything in his life, thought we needed a little deck in the garden. He bought the lumber, a hand saw and a hammer, and began. Unfortunately, he laid the supporting two-by-fours down flat, then nailed the deck on top. We thought it was fine until one day someone came to visit and pointed out the error.

We were very interested in the visuals of the house and spent a lot of time painting it. But we knew nothing about house maintenance. I'm sure we never changed the furnace filter, drained the hot water heater, or cleaned the gutters. But we did

make improvements. We added sliding doors to the garden so it wasn't necessary to go all the way around the house to get there, installed a pretty new bathroom vanity and sink, and planted a copper beech tree in the front yard.

Our friends came for barbecues, we acquired dogs and kittens, and bought a few pieces of furniture on credit. We played pinochle on Friday nights around the dining room table and turned the stereo up too loud.

Having a house cost us more than renting and involved a lot of our weekend time — but it felt good to be in our own place.

In some ways, buyers and buying are different now. For one thing, not everyone buys a house these days. Many first-time buyers are weighing into the market older than my husband and I were, in part because houses cost more.

And, I would guess, most people pay a larger percentage of their income to live in their houses now than we did.

Buyers today know more, and they're generally pickier about what they buy than buyers in the past. They shop loans and get bids for foundation bolting and chimney bracing; they climb the ladder to look for themselves at the roof flashing.

But there aren't any more perfect houses than there ever were. Buyers still have to make compromises. Maybe the kitchen in the house they've chosen isn't to their liking, but like us, it's enough to have beautiful windows and a sunny garden.

The real problem today is that there are so many buyers competing with one another.

It's a hard market for buyers. They educate themselves, prepare, line up a loan. Then they look and look at houses until they locate one they'd like to buy. Here is the mad part: At other times they'd have to decide how much less than the asking price to offer; these days they take note of how many other offers there will be, gird their loins and pray, then offer as much over asking price as they have the stomach for. Even so, they frequently lose.

It's hard on buyers to have to pick themselves up, look for another house, to have faith that everything will be all right. Buyers and their agents who have made offers on several houses are disappointed and weary.

What to do? Buy "any old house?" The answer is no, because "just any

house," obviously, isn't enough to be carefully chosen.

Which house is selected is important today as it always has been, because "home" impacts one's location and physical environment. Building, including innumerable details, can make all the difference in life: the placement on the block, who lives next door, for example, distance to groceries, freeways, schools, size and shape and number of rooms, how the sun hits the windows, and on and on.

It seems only right that buyers, just like in other times and markets, look at houses and find one that they truly love and commit to buying it. If they are unsuccessful in making their own, their only path is to find another love and commit again.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarjoff are also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. He be reached at 510-653-2050.

EVENTS

Saturday, June 26

Kitchen and bath seminar. Free seminar on what's new and sizzling for kitchen and bath and how to put it all together; brochures and product literature, light refreshments. 10 a.m. to noon. Capstone Cabinetry and Design, 6522 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Space limited to 25 people; call to reserve a space. 510-654-0661. Easy street parking.

Thursday, July 1

Oakland building inspector Redwood. Kardon explains some of the quandaries of the electrical code. He also owns and maintains codecheck.com, a Web site devoted to the code check manuals.

Code Check Electrical. 7 p.m. Builders Bookstore, 1817 Fourth Street, Berkeley. 510 845 8874. Free.

Sunday, July 25 through Tuesday, July 27

Wildflower and landscape photography. Three-day workshop led by professional photographer Steven Rulley. Focuses on Hope Valley and Carson Pass. For beginners or advanced amateurs. Learn about the techniques and problems unique to outdoor photography. For details and equipment list, call 925-449-2245.

See EVENTS, Page C11



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4027 COOLIDGE AVE., OAKLAND

This darling, sunny Mediterranean with surrounding level gardens is the perfect spot for easy living and outdoor entertaining. The well-designed floor plan includes 2+ bedrooms with an updated kitchen and bath. Additional features include a formal dining room, living room with fireplace, detached garage and lots of storage.

\$269,000

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Sandi Klemmer



Dick Cohen

PACIFIC UNION



Steven D. Zager, Broker

7255 Saroni Drive, Montclair



\$319,000

Serene and sylvan setting for this 4 bedroom/ 2.5 bath contemporary home. Hardwood floors, family room, two fireplaces, and two decks nestled into the surrounding hills.

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Sunday, June 27
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BREATHTAKING BAY VIEWS



4609 Rising Hill Court

This exquisite custom built home proudly sits on a prestigious 35,000 square foot knoll-top property overlooking breathtaking San Francisco, Golden Gate, and Bay views.

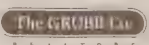
Superior design and dramatic spaces are featured in this spectacular estate as highlighted in the grand foyer with soaring ceilings, exquisite window treatment and beautiful architectural lines. The entry leads to spacious formal rooms overlooking landscaped grounds and breathtaking views. Stately surrounding walls lend history and prominence to this exquisite cul-de-sac property. State of the art amenities and two granite-slab islands embellish the modern kitchen which adjoins a spacious family room and expansive terraces.



Six bedrooms, seven and a half bathrooms with library, office and media/entertainment room.

Price Upon Request

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

SALESPERSONS OF THE MONTH



Karen Lum & Ruby Ng, CRS

The team of Ruby Ng and Karen Lum received top sales awards for months of April and May for Coldwell Banker, Montclair.

They attribute their success to their steadfast philosophy in providing service, commitment and results to their clients. Clients appreciate their attention to detail and in providing all the options

available to help their clients make informed decisions.

Ruby and Karen appreciate their continued relationships with their clients and their clients look upon them as their trusted advisors and friends. They invite you to call and make them a part of your real estate team. Call Ruby Ng at (510) 339-4770 and Karen Lum at (510) 339-4776.



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Copy Delivery: 3:00 p.m. Tuesday

NO EXCEPTIONS

Long-term care insurance policy must cover all the bases

Did you know that about 43 percent of persons turning 65 can expect to spend some time in a long-term care facility? What is more, about half of them will require care for three years or more and 20 percent will spend five years or longer in a nursing home. According to the National Council on Aging, long-term care expenses drive about 70 percent of senior citizen families into federal poverty levels within four months of beginning institutionalized care.

Fortunately, you can prepare for the possibility of requiring long-term care in your older years by purchasing long-term care insurance, often referred to as nursing home in-

Money Matters

By Leila Gough



Leila Gough

"According to the National Council on Aging, long-term care costs drive about 70 percent of senior families into poverty..."

urance. Long-term care insurance provides benefits to offset the high

costs of extended stays in managed care facilities, home health care or adult day care. If you are considering purchasing a long-term care policy or reviewing your existing policy, you should know that not all policies are the same. A good policy will offer:

■ **Strong financial backing.** Look for a company with high ratings from the major rating services such as AM Best, Duff and Phelps, Standard & Poors and Moody's. The rating measure the insurer's financial health, which directly affects its ability to pay claims from its policyholders.

■ **An adequate daily benefit.** Currently, the average cost of nursing home care in most states ranges

from \$95 to \$200 per day. Most policies will offer a daily benefit of up to \$200 per day.

■ **Inflation protection.** The average age that someone enters a nursing home is 79, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. If you purchase a policy at age 55, you may not need the coverage for 20 years. During that time, the average cost of a nursing home stay may more than double, considering a reasonable inflation rate.

■ **A home health care option.** Most people like to remain in their own homes as long as possible. A good policy should offer at least a partial benefit for the services of a professional care giver in your home.

■ **A reasonable "elimination" period.** Similar to a deductible, an elimination period is the time span in which you pay for your long-term care out of your own pocket. A typical elimination period is 90 days. It should be noted that if care is needed immediately following a hospital stay, Medicare will usually cover a portion of the cost up to 90 days.

■ **An acceptable benefit period.** The average stay in a nursing home is 2.5 years. The benefit period should cover at least three years. You may want to consider a policy with an unlimited benefit period.

Because there are hundreds of different long-term care insurance plans available, be sure to compare the

benefits and costs of several different policies. Your financial consultant can help you determine whether a long-term care policy is right for your circumstances. If a policy makes sense for you, your financial consultant can then help you choose from among several policies the one that best meets your needs.

Leila Gough is an associate vice president with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She helps clients define and reach their financial goals. She can be reached at 510-273-8851 and via e-mail at leila.gough@agedwards.com.

Dealing with dings on a home inspection report? You have options

June and Fred Black were diligent about getting their home ready for sale. For example, they ordered a pre-sale termite inspection report. The report revealed that their garage rear deck was dry-rot infested, so they replaced it before putting their home on the market.

The Blacks also called a reputable roofer to examine the roof and issue a report on its condition. The roofer said that the roof was on its last legs and that it should be replaced. The Blacks didn't want buyers to be put off by a bad roof so they had the roof replaced, and the exterior painted, before they marketed the home.

The Blacks' home was attractive, well-maintained and priced right for

Real Estate Forum

By Dian Hymer



Dian Hymer

"Don't panic. Until you see the whole picture clearly, you're not in a position to know if you have a major problem..."

the market. It received multiple offers the first week it was listed for

sale. Unfortunately, the buyers' inspection report indicated that the house was in serious need of drainage work.

According to a drainage contractor, the job would cost more than \$20,000. Fred Black was particularly distraught as he'd paid to have cor-

rective drainage work done several years ago.

Don't panic if you receive an alarming inspection report on a home you're buying or selling. Until you see the whole picture clearly, you're not in a position to determine whether you have a major problem.

What happened to the Blacks is typical of what can happen overtime with older homes. The drainage work that was completed years ago was probably adequate at the time. But since that time, there had been unprecedented rains in the area which caused flooding in many basements.

Also, in the intervening years, drainage technology advanced. New technology can be more expensive, but often does a better job. The Blacks considered calling in other drainage experts to see if the

See REPORT, Page C13

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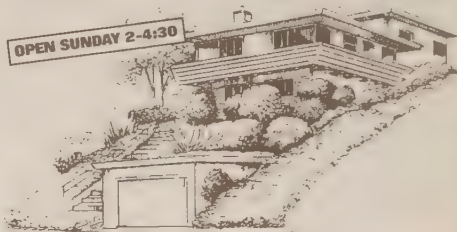
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PACIFIC UNION

Reader taps into 'genetic code' for home preferences

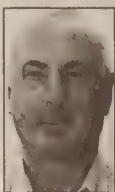
Dear Don. Your request at the end of the column I read today prompted me to write about my own feelings regarding the house I grew up in versus the ones I have chosen on my own. I grew up in a house in the Berkeley hills that my parents had designed themselves and had built in 1960. It was at the top of a steep cul-de-sac, with the garage being the only part visible from the street. The house was completely hidden behind the garage and the front door was reached by way of a long paved walkway. The house was surrounded by trees and shrubs and was very secluded — completely disconnected from the street it was on.

I have often thought that it was the experience of living in that house that gave me my need for a house that gave me the opportunity to be in touch with the street and with the neighborhood in general.

For instance, I have always looked for houses with front kitchens that look out onto the street. Curiously, this seems to be a thing of the past

Firm Foundation

By Don Pearman



Don Pearman

"What I thought was learned behavior, a preference for older homes, is really a blip on my 23rd chromosome..."

and not found in new houses. In my current house, I have even set up my office in the kitchen so that I have a view of the street from there as well. Also, every one of my houses has been on a through street, one that is conducive to walking and bicycling so that there is activity to see from the front windows.

Another thing that I will not repeat from that childhood experience

is living in a location that is inconvenient to shopping, libraries and other amenities. I now live in Davis, a perfectly flat community, and on a street that is a five- or ten-minute bike ride from anywhere I want to go in town.

Something I have often wondered about is the seeming connection between the seclusion of a house and the status accorded its owners. The more private and hidden away a house appears, the more "classy" it seems. Do some people really enjoy living that way? If so, what has given them that need for privacy? Are they simply enslaved to it in order to feel high in status?

Have you ever thought about this? Stephanie

Dear Stephanie. It seems the genetic folks are gaining headway over the environment folks more and more each year. They have found genes that dictate preferences for food and a predisposition to being grumpy, as well as one's physical makeup. I can see the headlines now

— what I thought was learned behavior, a preference for the beauty of older homes, is really nothing but a blip on my 23rd chromosome. On the fact that I don't like aluminum windows and much prefer ornate wooden ones doesn't always seem rational when the wood ones have been more trouble for me.

You mention living on a wooded cul-de-sac in the Berkeley hills — I also lived on one of those in Federal Way, Washington State. Federal Way is halfway between Seattle and Tacoma. I lived there from age 10 until my junior year in high school. I loved the area more for the forts we could build in the woods than for the house itself.

As the house was on the very edge of the subdivision, it was still relatively convenient to stores, the library and school. It as the best of all worlds, as far as I was concerned.

I find your interest in front kitchens intriguing. Most of the houses that I have owned have had side kitchens, the street not being the

best view. The house that I have enjoyed for the last 12 years has a wonderful view from the back. One of my hobbies is cooking, and I find that I am busy chopping and slicing and don't look out my kitchen window which does have a nice view. However, I do enjoy my dining room, from which I have a splendid Bay view.

I have never thought about a house in terms of status. I enjoy my house immensely; it is an ongoing project. When I remodel or add on, I do it to a style and standard that I enjoy. Much more than 99 percent of the world is not ever going to see it, so it is much more important to me for my personal enjoyment.

I am been fortunate to have worked for the phone company during the 1960s. In my job I was able to view many "classy" mansions. The feeling I got from most of the owners of these mansions was that status was not as important as personal taste and comfort.

I have also seen designer show-cases homes where the local charity

takes over a mansion and refurnishes it in order to raise money for a cause. Local luminaries donate their services by designing and building a room in the house and the proceeds of the sale of the house go to the charity.

While most of us couldn't live in these showcases, I don't want to even if I could. Other than the design work seems to be more for status than for living.

Thank you for sharing your experience — I hope more readers share theirs.

Don Pearman is a northern California contractor and author of the Termites Report: How to Save Your Home from Pests, Rot and Earthquakes. Address questions to Don Pearman, Oakland, CA 94612 or e-mail dpearman@earthlink.net Web site: donpearman.com

New rules make home office easier to claim on taxes

By Jan Zobel
FOR HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Millions of small business owners, previously unable to claim an office-in-home because of strict IRS guidelines, may now find it easier to take this deduction. New tax laws effective January 1 liberalize the home office requirements.

Prior to January 1, in order to deduct a home office, self-employed people needed to have a space that was used regularly and exclusively as either the primary place of work for the business, a place to meet with clients or customers, a separate structure not connected to the house, or the sole storage place for business

inventory or product samples.

This meant that small-business owners and independent contractors who used their homes for administrative work only, even if a separate room was set up and used exclusively for that purpose, were not able to take the potentially valuable home office deduction.

Consultants who work primarily at clients' offices, plumbers whose principal place of work is at the job site, and psychotherapists who see clients elsewhere but do their billing at home were among those who were unable to take this deduction.

Beginning January 1, 1999, the office-in-home deduction is available not only to those who meet the old

guidelines but also to self-employed people who have no other location where they conduct substantial administrative or management activities for their business.

Telecommuters and other employees can take this deduction only if use of the home is for the convenience of their employer. Tax returns for 1998, due April 15, must be prepared using the old rules.

In order to deduct business use of a home under the new rules, there still must be a space that is used regularly and exclusively for business. The home office does not need to be

a separate room, but must be a clearly definable space in which no personal activities take place.

One rule that hasn't changed is that home office expenses cannot be deducted if the business has a loss, or if deducting the home office would create a loss.

However, any home expenses that can't be claimed in the current year because of a business loss can be carried over to the next year's return.

Homeowners are already able to claim the mortgage interest and real

See IRS, Page C13

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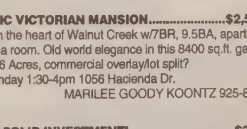
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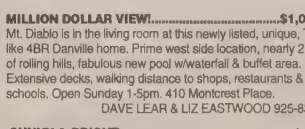
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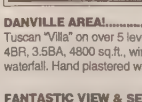
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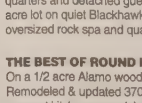
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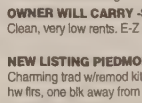
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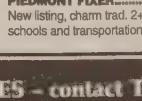
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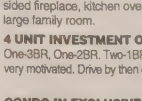
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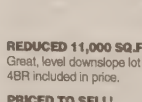
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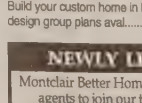
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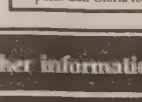


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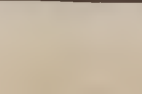


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Choose the right materials for your kitchen remodel

Appealing cabinetry makes most of diverse construction methods

So far in this series we have considered many of the things that are part of a vibrant, successful kitchen remodel. Let's continue the discussion of material choices.

Cabinetry

There are so many things to keep in mind about cabinetry that it can be overwhelming. Let's try to break down the subject so that it is a little more manageable.

■ **Cabinetry construction choices**
Most traditional cabinetry is made with the doors and drawers set into a face frame. Look at an older dresser or hutch and you will probably see the doors, drawers and face frame all in the same plane. You will see the door hinges. This construction method is called "flush inset." It will be the best method to build very traditional looking cabinetry.

As time went by and the cost of labor went up a way of building cabinets with looser tolerances was developed. If you live in a house built from about 1920 to 1960 you might have some examples of kitchen cabinets with a door that lips over the face frame. This method of construction is called a "lipped overlay." It covers the face frame and does not require the attention to detail when it is being built that "flush inset" construction does.

The hinges that hold the doors up in this type of cabinetry are offset to allow for the lip. These hinges are also adjustable to some degree which is another way of keeping labor costs down.

Much of the cabinetry built today uses a method that is commonly referred to as "flush overlay." To further reduce labor costs machinery was developed that drilled holes on a regular pattern to facilitate the construction of modular units from pre-fabricated pieces.

Also, hinges that were completely hidden from view and were adjustable in three directions were invented. The combination of these methods and measures allows cabinetry cases behind the doors and draw-

From the Ground Up

By Paul Winans



Paul Winans

The more traditional the construction method, the more expensive it will be. But creative designs can fool the eye.

ers) to be built relatively inexpensively. The doors and drawers in this type of construction cover the entire front of the cabinet. There is no face frame at all. That is where the term "flush overlay" comes from.

It is important to note that none of these methods of cabinet construction are better than the other. You need to decide the look you want and what you want to pay for your cabinets.

The more traditional the construction method the more expensive the cabinets will be. But a very traditional looking door style can be used with the flush overlay construction method to create a traditional looking cabinet.

■ **Cabinetry material choices**
The basic choices for the interiors are vinyl covered particle board and plywood.

Vinyl covered particle board is more commonly known by the brand

names Corton or Melamine. It is easy to keep clean and provides a uniform appearance for the insides of the cabinets.

As with all particle board products there is concern that the formaldehyde used in the construction of the particle board will continue to outgas over time and possibly create a health hazard.

Plywood covered with a clear finish is a more traditional way of building cabinet interiors. Typically a shop-grade maple or apple plywood is used, providing the look of wood at relatively low cost.

■ **Exterior finishing choices**
The basic choice for the exteriors is clear finished hardwood or paint.

Clear finished hardwood, stained or not, is what most people think of when they think of cabinetry. Most antique furniture is built with this type of exterior. Modern clear finishes, such as a catalytic conversion varnish, are very durable and are relatively easy to use.

Painted cabinetry is very popular today. Paint can be used over a variety of materials, including wood and particle board (usually a very dense type called MDF).

Plastic laminate is another popular cabinet exterior choice. Use it if you want the cabinets to have a very smooth face. It also requires no further finishing.

■ **Door style**
There are a lot of door styles to choose from. A very popular style

that has many variations is called "frame and panel." This type of door has a frame surrounding a panel, which is "raised" (has a molded perimeter where the panel meets the frame) or is flat.

Whether to custom build

One of the basic decisions you will have to make is whether to purchase factory built cabinets or custom made cabinets.

It used to be that the only way to get a custom cabinet was to go to a local cabinet maker. Today some factory cabinet companies offer lines that are either custom or semi-custom. Semi-custom means that there is a limited variety of items which can be custom made.

There are many factory lines that are pre-made and look very good.

Next time: Let's continue with counters as we review the finish choices that are involved in a successful kitchen remodel.

Paul Winans, CR, is co-owner of Winans Construction, Inc., an Oakland-based general contracting firm founded in 1978. Paul can be reached at 510-653-7288 or E-mail info@winconinc.com.

FOLLOWING THE SERIES

January 10: Time for a change: Finding expert solutions.

February 11: Layout ideas: What do you want in your kitchen?

March 4: Layout considerations: What goes where? Materials: Flooring.

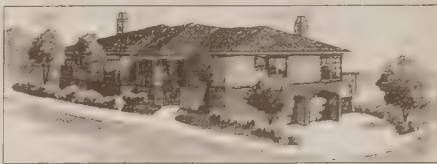
■ Today: Materials: Cabinetry; more than meets the eye.

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In the Balance

By Deborah Tharp



Deborah Tharp

"Contributing to a CRT reduces your estate by removing both the asset and all future appreciation on that asset..."

20 years. When the income obligation terminates, the remainder of the trust assets pass to charity.

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Because a CRT is a tax-exempt entity, assets sold within the trust are not subject to capital gains tax at the time they are sold. While capital gains tax may be imposed at a later date on distributions from the trust, the ability to defer these taxes allows the full value of the assets to be rein-

Highly appreciated assets can help fuel hot estate plan

vested to immediately work for your benefit. Thus, you are able to convert the full value of assets that you formerly have provided you with little or no income into a significant income stream.

When you contribute assets to a CRT during your lifetime, you may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based upon the present value of the remainder interest which passes to charity after the income interest terminates. This deduction cannot exceed a certain percentage of your adjusted gross income, but may be carried forward five years after the initial year of your contribution.

Therefore, you may receive the benefit of an income tax deduction for up to six years. Further, because of the gift tax charitable deduction, your lifetime transfer of an asset to charity is not subject to federal gift taxes.

Contributing highly appreciated assets to a CRT also reduces your estate by removing both the asset

and all future appreciation on that asset. This may save you considerable estate taxes.

Protecting your heirs

Suppose you are concerned about providing for your heirs as well as your favorite charity. You can replace all or part of the value of the property transferred to the CRT with an asset replacement strategy like this:

■ Establish an asset replacement trust — in essence, an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT).

■ Make annual gifts to the trust. You can use some of the income stream from the CRT and the income tax savings from the charitable income tax deduction for this purpose. If the trust is drafted with particular provisions, the gifts may qualify for the annual gift tax exclusion or they may count toward one's applicable exclusion amount (the total estate

and gift tax exemption is \$650,000 in 1999).

■ The trustee may then use the gifts to purchase life insurance on your life, or a second-to-die policy on you and your spouse. The trustee is both policy owner and beneficiary.

■ Life insurance proceeds received by the trustee on behalf of the trust's beneficiaries are not subject to income taxes and are not included in your gross estate at death. Thus using the CRT and the asset replacement trust, you may be able to contribute significantly greater assets to charity and actually pass on more of your wealth to your beneficiaries!

Estate planning can help you preserve the assets you have carefully accumulated. Bear in mind that these strategies are subject to the complex laws and regulations governing estate and gift tax, income tax and private foundations. To be effective, an

estate plan should be designed and implemented by specialists. In all such matters, you should consult with your attorney and tax advisor to help devise a plan appropriate to your needs.

Selecting a trustee for your CRT is an equally important decision. The trustee may be responsible for investing and reinvesting trust assets, making periodic accounting and filings to trust beneficiaries and appropriate tax authorities, and performing other administrative functions.

By utilizing a professional, you may receive the benefit of a going relationship management, objectivity and proper trust administrative services.

Deborah J. Tharp is a financial consultant with Solomon Smith Barney in San Francisco. Call with questions at 415-984-6047 or 800-289-9060.

HOME HEALTH BRIEFS

Take mold, dry rot seriously

Mold can destroy your home's structural integrity and can smell and cause illnesses, including allergic reactions and asthmatic symptoms. Experts suggest that homeowners check their homes for evidence of mold and dry rot, looking for discolored walls and pools of water. Pay particular attention to places that have leaked — beneath windows, under your sink.

The state Department of Health Resources, which publishes a handy six-page guide "Mold in My Home: What Can I Do?", says mold can enter your home from flooding, backed-up sewers, humidifiers, house plants, steam from cooking and showering, even drying your clothes on an indoor line.

"If you can see mold, or if there is an earthy or musty odor, you can assume you have a mold problem," the guide states. Moldy materials should not simply be cleaned, the guide says. They should be thrown out.

Mold can be particularly insidious if it starts growing within your walls or in the floorboards. Moisture pooling around the foundation is a cause for concern, as is poor flashing around windows and doors. The American Lung Association suggests that people keep their gutters clean and repair basement cracks.

Paints point to gas risk

Synthetic paints "outgas" (i.e., "stink") for at least several days after they go on, as we all have noticed.

Environmental design proponents say some paints continue to emit potentially troublesome fumes (volatile organic compounds, or "VOCs") long afterwards.

Experts recommend that people

use acrylic (not oil) paint with the lowest possible VOC rating and with as few additives as possible. Some newer paints contain no VOCs.

There are also some natural paints on the market based on linseed oil, pine resins, beeswax and other compounds that may be less harmful to health and to the environment.

Compiled by staff

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Borrowers get relief from insurance abuse

Clinton amends law to require timed PMI cancellation — effective July 29

No. 71 in a series

The e-mail from a reader in Albany read like the same question I hear nearly every day.

"When we bought our house, we were required to take out PMI (primary mortgage insurance). The only explanation given to us was that our down payment was less than 20 percent and this insurance is to protect the lender if we defaulted on the loan.

In going through all the (mortgage) paperwork, I just realized that there isn't anything in writing, only a policy to explain the details of the coverage and the name of the company to whom the premium is to be paid. Nothing to say what the benefit to the homeowner is and who gets to foreclose if the borrower defaults on the loan.

PMI has been the nemesis of home borrowers for years. The only benefit this coverage offers to the borrower is that they can purchase property sooner with less than 20 percent down, often with little as 3 percent down.

But unlike fire, flood and earthquake insurance, which benefits the homeowner, PMI (which is not tax deductible) only benefits the lender by protecting against default.

If the homeowner defaults on the loan, the lender holding the note (the beneficiary) would foreclose through their trustee (the service that is set up to transact the foreclosure).

Most loans have mortgage insurance (called pool insurance) but the lender pays the cost of the insurance for loans up to 80 percent loan-to-value.

The borrower pays the insurance premiums through an escrow account when the loan to value is greater than 80 percent. The payment is made to one of several PMI companies such as PMI Mortgage Insurance Company in San Francisco or GE Mortgage Insurance from the East Coast.

Federal law mandates that when a lender writes a mortgage it must disclose PMI details, including when and how borrowers can cancel PMI. Years later, however, when PMI coverage is no longer necessary, irresponsible lenders haven't always come forward to remind borrowers they're eligible to cancel. That has led many homeowners to pay hundreds, even thousands of dollars in premiums that were no longer necessary.

The federal Homeowners Protection Act, passed in 1997, was set primarily to provide consumer protection from PMI abuse.

President Clinton just signed into law an amendment to the Truth in Lending Act that forces lenders to automatically cancel mortgage insurance when the homeowner pays down the mortgage to 78 percent of the original purchase price, among other provisions.

The law affects loans originated on and after July 29, and is limited to Fannie Mae loans (loans that they will buy). Most lenders are expected to offer similar cancellation policies.

An additional provision of this law requires that lenders automatically

Mortgage Madness

By Karen Senzig



Karen Senzig

"Homeowners who are stuck with PMI should not wait for the lenders to do them any favors..."

cancel PMI on existing mortgages once they reach their mid-point — 15 years on 30 year mortgage.

Homeowners who are stuck with PMI should not wait for the lenders to do them any favors.

Not only should they demand the PMI disclosures in writing when they sign all those papers, they should also understand what their options are.

While the majority of lenders have a provision that they will not cancel PMI for at least two years from the purchase of the property, a new lender will accept a new appraisal after 12 months of ownership (seasoning).

We have seen many clients refinance out of PMI with a no-cost loan. Even with a higher interest rate, the payment usually is lower than with PMI and the interest becomes a tax benefit.

Primary Mortgage Insurance. Just another little detour on the road to Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-3814 and e-mail KSenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions for discussion.

Consignment furniture goes stylish

By Denise M. Alfieri
CORRESPONDENT

Antiques were always Good, with a capital "G." If you could afford a fine French antique chair, it didn't much matter if it was in the same room with an 18th century American lamp table and a fine 19th century English sofa.

Then there was New furniture, which was Fairly Good, but some was more good than others. That usually depended on the store, the brand name and the price. And it all had to match or it got Less Good.

And finally, there was Used furniture, which was something you got if you couldn't afford Antique or New furniture. And that was Not So Good.

Home consignment shops have changed all that. Antique furniture is still good, and you can find some fine antiques at the Danville Consignment Center. And New Furniture is still good, and you can also find that at the Danville Consignment Center. But the heart and soul of the center is gently, kindly used furniture — some barely new and some more mellowed.

There are many reasons for buying used furniture. One is environmental — re-use preserves resources. Another is style. Used furniture is often unique.

"There are several reasons for this business," said Johnny Crowell, co-owner of the Danville Consignment Center at 1901 Camino Ramon, next to Cosco, as well as others in San Mateo, Los Altos and Saratoga. The Danville Consignment Center is one of a growing number of successful home furnishing consignment stores in the East Bay.

"We've become a little more sensitive to using up a lot of commodities — going through the world's supply of wood," he said. "Also we're in communities where people tend to relocate, sometimes temporarily, for business purposes."

"There are also a lot of marriages and re-marriages and people want to change the furnishings for something that's 'ours,' not something from the 'last husband or the last wife.'"

"Couples also buy furniture with their young, growing families in mind, and when they've got that empty nest, they want something different, something more attuned to

their new lifestyle," Crowell said.

"Or they've had a home that's perfect for an adult couple, but not so good for new babies or young children. And finally, sometimes people just get tired of what they have. They had everything blue, and they decide they'd like to try green. Or they've had a beautiful flowered sofa, and they decide they'd like leather... or vice versa."

Actually, there are endless reasons why people decide to let go of something that's in wonderful condition and get something different.

Crowell, an attorney with an office in Pleasanton, first went into the antique car consignment business in Pleasanton, but "my bride wasn't big on cars, so my partner and I decided to do this instead."

Neither Crowell nor his partner, John Fondazio, nor their wives and partners, Christine Crowell and Jamece Fondazio, were prepared for the reception the Home Consignment Centers received.

"It's pretty amazing," Crowell remarked. "But we did our homework

WHERE TO LOOK

Among the many consignment stores in the East Bay are:

■ **Consigned Furnishings Co.**, 150 Longbrook Way, Suite D, Pleasanton. 925-798-8556.

■ **Consignment Plus Home Furnishings Inc.** 1299 Parkside Drive, Walnut Creek. 925-927-6600. Also 4250 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. 925-468-0460. Web site: www.consignmentplus.com

■ **Furnish Again.** 6891 Village Parkway, Dublin. 925-828-7202. Consignment furniture and accessories.

■ **Home Consignment Center.** 1901 Camino Ramon, Suite F, Danville. 925-866-6164.

■ **Old World Furniture.** 1875 Adobe St., Concord. 925-685-7018. Antique furniture store.

■ **Urban Ore General Store.** Sixth and Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-559-4450.

first. We interviewed people with stores all around the country."

"I can tell you from all the research we did that the furniture comes from the same kind of places it goes to: mostly more affluent homes. Most of our stock is from six months to a year old. We get a lot of model home furniture, too, which is barely used, if at all. We also have furniture that's up to 75 years old, so there's quite a range."

If you sell your furniture through the Home Consignment Center, you get 60 percent of the selling price.

Every piece of furniture that the Home Consignment Centers take is previewed in advance. "There are a lot of things we don't take," he says. "You have to keep the caliber high."

So what about the idea that things were made better in the Old Days?

"Not true," Crowell insists. "There were quality craftsmen making furniture years ago; that much is very true. But there was good furniture made in the old days, and there was junk made in the old days..."

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684 HILLDALE • OPEN SUN. 2-5
New Listing! Beautiful views from this level in 4+BR, 2BA home with separate office. Linda Wolan ext. 123. \$549,000

THE TOLMAN COTTAGES. Indescribably charming! Two separate cottages. 2+BR, 2BA & 2BR, 1BA. View, decks, gardens, beamed ceilings. Very special! Leslie Avant ext. 122. \$535,000

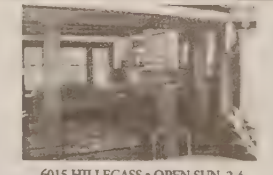
CHARMING side-by-side 1BR, 1BA split level duplex. One vacant, the other by mid August. Garden. Hardwood floors. Nancy Noman ext. 124. \$318,000

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HOME HEALTH TIP

Barbecues can be recipes for summertime danger

NEW YORK — Don't dish up a tummyache — or worse — along with the backyard barbecue or picnic fare, cautions Dr. Philip Tierno, microbiologist at the New York University Medical Center.

Tierno says there are an estimated 80 million cases of food-borne illnesses every year, including 9,000 fatalities. "At least half of these cases could have been prevented by washing hands and by practicing good food hygiene," he says.

Here's the drill to safe summertime foods, as outlined by the center's microbiology department staff:

■ Don't cut meats and vegetables with the same knife or on the same cutting board. Use one board for meats and another for salad and/or vegetables.

■ Choose a plastic cutting board which contains an antibacterial substance such as Triclosan. This type will cleanse itself with germicide when sliced.

■ Cook meats and poultry thoroughly. Everything but steak needs to be cooked to an interior temperature of 160 degrees (steak can be cooked rare inside since germs only reach the outer layer). Keep in mind that 80 percent of all chickens contain salmonella and/or

campylobacter, microbes that cause gastroenteritis, and fish can contain vibrio. The temperature rule applies even to hot dogs and hamburgers.

■ Keep track of expiration dates on packaging for meat, dairy products and pre-cut salads. The older the food, the more likely it is to contain a greater quantity of germs.

■ Don't leave foods out for more than two hours in a warm, moist environment. Staph aureus can get into potato salad, macaroni salad and creamed dishes to produce the toxins that cause food poisoning.

■ Keep your hands clean. Wash them between preparation of different foods. Wash after throwing away debris. Wash after going into the house where you might touch a doorknob or a piece of furniture that isn't clean. Wash after using the bathroom. Use antibacterial soaps and cleansers. Waterless antibacterials are good choices when water isn't available.

■ Don't ignore it if you get sick after a barbecue or picnic. If you experience vomiting, nausea, stomach cramps, fever or headache within 24 hours of your meal, see a doctor. Even if it's a non-fatal bout, the illness can be damaging to your gastrointestinal system.

Fire, burglary risks make safes safe bet

Can your photo albums and treasures withstand 1,200-degree heat?

By John Morrell
LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE

It's a scene that's played out in countless old movies and television shows: The bedroom door creaks open, and a masked man appears with a flashlight. He peeks behind pictures on the walls until he finds one that hides a safe. The burglar jiggles with the combination lock, opens the door and sticks his whole arm inside to reach a cache of jewelry.

"When I see that, I laugh," says locksmith Rob Edwards. "If you try to stick your arm inside a wall safe, all you're going to get are some bruised knuckles. They're only a few inches deep."

It's all a part of the misinformation surrounding safes. Many people assume that they're only for those who are hiding expensive jewelry and cash, but anybody with something of value, especially irreplaceable family photographs and documents, can use a safe.

"When I lost my photo albums I felt like I lost a part of me," says Gerri Smith, who suffered through a house fire nine years ago and didn't have a safe for her possessions. "It's important to take care of those things because once they're gone, they're gone."

You are unique

The first step when considering a safe is to evaluate your needs. "Look at what you're trying to protect and what you're trying to protect it from," says John Salles of Acme Key Services in Santa Ana. "If it's jewelry and important papers, put them all on a table to get an idea of how much space you'll need."

Fire, burglary, or both?

Safes are classified into one of three categories: fire, burglary and one that protects from both fire and burglary.

"Most people don't have priceless jewelry, but they have priceless photographs and letters from great-grandparents, that sort of thing."

Rob Edwards, locksmith

Fire safes are the most common and the least expensive. Burglary safes start at around \$200 but will give you some peace of mind if you're worried about theft. Safes rated for both threats are another 20 to 30 percent more in price.

If your jewelry collection is modest and you're more interested in protecting documents, a simple fire safe, which can be found at most discount stores and home centers for as little as \$30, will probably meet your needs.

"Most people don't have priceless jewelry, but they have priceless photographs and letters from great-grandparents, that sort of thing. So having a fire safe to protect these makes good sense," says Edwards.

Fire safes are often made with a hard plastic exterior surrounding a

plaster or concrete inner compartment. As the safe heats up in a fire, the melting components on the exterior form a seal around the opening, fusing the lid and body together.

Fire takes all

While one may think that their greatest threat is from burglary, "In a theft you lose jewelry and money, but in a fire you lose everything," says Cathy Callegari, a spokesperson for Sentry Group, a leading safe manufacturer. "That's why you should al-

ways consider fire a real threat." Underwriters Laboratories rates safes according to the amount of protection they provide. In the average house fire, temperatures of at least 1,200 degrees are reached. The least expensive fire safes provide up to 1/2 hour of heat protection while under that kind of damage. More expensive models can protect items inside for up to two hours during a fire.

See SAFES, Page C8

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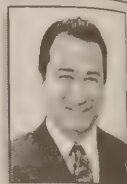
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Residential condominium conversions under pressure

Real Estate Law

By Robert Hayes



Robert Hayes

San Francisco and Berkeley have seen an explosion of hybrid Tenancy-in-Common arrangements.

tioned, have created unanticipated problems. Both San Francisco and Berkeley have witnessed the widespread appearance of a hybrid form of home-ownership commonly known as Tenancy in Common (TIC), in which aspiring home owners, priced out of the existing housing market, join to buy apartment buildings in a quasi-con-

dominium format.

Linked as co-owners of undivided percentage interests in one piece of property, they enter into written agreements among themselves in which they address, as best they can, issues of central import such as liability for financing, possibility of refinancing, selling individual interests, renting individual units, resolution of disputes, maintenance and replacement reserves, and more mundane matters such as pets, noise and parking.

Most important of all, such agreements allocate exclusive occupancy rights to specified units to specified individuals, thus accomplishing the primary residence objective without running afoul of the ban on converting rental units to condominiums.

As a Supreme Court case decided, if such exclusive unit assignments do not appear on the face of the deed, and the deed not because all owners are listed as co-owners of just one property, then condos have not been created.

Problems associated with this cobbled-together approach began to appear soon enough. For one, since rental units were in fact being siphoned off the existing market, the squeeze on available apartments was exacerbated.

For another, lacking the legal benefits of true condominium housing, i.e. separate legal title to a unit and a statutory sanctioned governance structure by means of a homeowners association and such formal documentation as CC&Rs (covenants, conditions and restrictions), TIC owners found themselves at risk of financial difficulty if any of their co-owners failed to make his or her proportionate mortgage, tax, insurance, or maintenance payments on a timely basis.

Another major complication arose when one of the co-owners decided to sell his or her interest in the property. Such a transaction was likely to result in convoluted and/or costly new financing encumbering all of the

remaining owners' interests as well as that of the purchaser.

Berkeley has responded to these difficulties by enacting an ordinance which allows the conversion, at substantial cost to the owners, of 100 qualified TICs per year to condominiums. It also makes the conversion of tenant-occupied TIC units prohibitively expensive, thus preserving the spirit, if not the letter, of its ban on condominium conversions.

Oakland's approach to these problems has been quite different. Not only has it eschewed rent control in favor of an arbitration system which allows tenants to challenge rent increases which exceed limits set annually by the city but it has also approached the problem of conversion of rental units to condominiums in a similarly moderate manner, balancing the need for new owner-occupancy housing with the need to protect tenants from arbitrary evictions.

For example, the Oakland ordinance

requires that once a property owner decides to convert the property, all tenants are to receive a series of detailed notices on a scheduled basis as the process moves ahead.

In addition, all tenants have a 90 day exclusive right to purchase a unit in the building. Those who are unable to purchase a unit or choose not to do so are to be provided with financial assistance to move and at least 180 days to do so.

It is a much more even-handed approach to the twin problems of low vacancy rates and first time-home ownership than those implemented in San Francisco and Berkeley.

Robert Hayes is a real estate attorney with the Law Offices of Hayes & Ware in Oakland. He is a former real estate broker and UC Extension instructor in Real Estate Practice. He can be reached at 510-763-7195.

Internet connects relocating worker, new area information

By Conrad Bassett
FOR HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Used to be that when one was going to relocate, he would be told his new work city and then would be totally on his own. He might pick up the "out of town" newspaper for the destination and start reading ads or to talk to another worker regarding areas or schools for the selection of an agent.

Workers would then send for information that might take days to get. Now, corporations have sophisticated programs in place to assist their transferring employees that are important to the corporation in many ways.

An excellent destination services program can help the transferee relocate very smoothly with as little downtime as possible.

Secondly, corporations or their service providers will make referrals

of individuals to brokers or moving companies or other firms who pay fees for the opportunities to do business. These help offset the cost of the relocation and on occasion portions of these fees are passed back to the employee.

Companies in the last few months have developed affinity programs for individuals selling their homes where they "give" frequent flyer mileage for buying a home using a referred broker, or using a particular lender to finance a new home. The cost of the miles is offset by the referral fee being paid to the company.

But let's just say all you want is information on your new community — prices of homes, area backgrounds, distances to business centers, or school information without anyone calling you up trying to get your business.

The information on real estate on

the Internet has grown exponentially in the last few months and by narrowing your search, you can find a great deal of information in a short period of time.

For example, if you are interested in moving to the greater New York City area, you can take out the map and find there are three states that appear within commuting distance to your new office. How do you choose? Where do you start?

For those who don't know, you might consider using a search engine such as Lycos or Infoseek or Excite and searching for a concept such as "New York real estate." The num-

ber of "links" that might come up will probably be in the thousands. Many won't exist anymore or the information will be out of date. However, it may bring you to sites that can help in your decision making process.

Using our New York example, we found through Lycos nearly three million links and a quick review gave us information about Buffalo and areas far from Manhattan and did not include New Jersey or Connecticut, both of which are within very reasonable commuting distance.

You can further narrow your search to a city or county and hopefully get more specific information.

One helpful site is www.realtor.com which lists homes all over the country and you can search by price and city and certain amenities such as size. This can give you an idea of homes in areas and what they look like. You can also get information about real estate companies that specialize in that area. They also list the name of the listing

agent and a phone number or e-mail address where you can request more information.

Most national real estate companies or franchises such as Coldwell Banker or Prudential have their own Web sites that promote their own listings.

Your research can help you so when you first make a trip to the new area your time will be spent most efficiently.



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190 MAXWELTON, PIEDMONT - 4BD/3BA \$795,000
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6810 SHERWOOD DR., OAKLAND HILLS - 4BD/2+BA \$685,000
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407 HUDSON ST., ROCKRIDGE - 3+BD/2BA \$625,000
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6359 LONGCROFT DR., MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/2.5BA \$499,000
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12555 BROOKPARK RD., OAKLAND HILLS - 4BD/2+BA \$469,000
New listing! Country living on approx. 1/3 acre, Colonial style home w/updated kitchen, FR, gardens. Georgia Cornell

5578 HARBOR DR., UPPER ROCKRIDGE - 3BD/1BA \$389,000
New listing! Wonderfully updated 1920's bungalow w/period detailing, large park-like property. Teri Carlisle

6639 BANNING DR., MONTCLAIR - 3BD/2+BA \$329,000
New listing! Contemporary home remodeled throughout, 2 fireplaces, master suite, hwd. floors. Chuck Corwin

PARKRIDGE ESTATES \$379,000
All-level 4BD/2BA home near Regional Parks w/family room, pool & spa, 3-car garage. Vicki Woodhead

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$359,000
Charming 3BD/1BA Spanish/Med. w/many upgrades, new chef's kitchen, formal DR, lovely details. Donna DeBard

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6006 COLTON, MONTCLAIR - 3BD/2BA \$319,000
New listing! Contemporary w/dramatic LR, hardwood floors, canyon views, great value! Adriana Giacomelli

4027 COOULIDGE AVE., UPPER LAUREL - 2+BD/1BA \$269,000
New listing! Sunny Mediterranean w/level gardens, updated kitchen & bath, formal DR, fireplace, garage. Sandi Klemmer

4088 PATTERSON AVE., LAUREL - 2BD/2BA \$225,000
New listing! Wonderful split-level home w/kitchen/FR, bonus room, garden, some Bay view. Lee Jacobson

4156 CULVER ST., LAUREL - 2BD/1BA \$169,000
New listing! Charming Spanish/Med. w/hardwood floors, updated bath, brkfst. nook, patio, garage. Lee Jacobson

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Investments only part of successful retirement plan

Everyone knows wise investing is an essential component of retirement planning. But selection of investments is only part of the picture. If you have underestimated how much income you will need in retirement or overestimated the amount of income you expect to receive from sources other than your retirement plan, then your retirement plan may go off track regardless of how well your investments have performed.

Successful retirement planning requires that you determine how much income you will need in retirement and how much income you expect to receive. Although you may not have certain expenses, such as house or car payments, you need to be prepared for additional expenses that sometimes come with aging. For example, you may face increased

Money Matters

By Leila Gough



Leila Gough

"You need to be prepared for additional expenses that sometimes come with aging..."

health care or long-term care costs. Do not forget to include the cost of travel or other hobbies you hope to enjoy during retirement.

Once you have prepared a budget reflecting your income needs in

retirement, you are now ready to estimate what annual income you expect to receive while you are no longer working.

Continued employment

Although most people do not relish the thought of continued employment after retirement, many must continue to be employed in some capacity to meet expenses. Keep in mind that after you reach age 62, the social security administration limits the amount you can earn without affecting your social security benefits.

Social Security

If you have not already done so, request an estimate of your social security benefits. If you are older than

60, any social security office can provide you with an estimate while you wait. If you are younger than 60, call the social security hot line at (800) 772-1213 and ask for a request for earnings and benefits statement.

Pension(s)/Retirement Plan(s)/IRA(s)

Contact your financial consultant about when you should begin taking distributions from your retirement plan and what form those distributions should take. As a general rule, you should plan to access investments in accounts that are not tax-advantaged before you tap into your retirement plan or traditional IRA assets. That way, you will gain the benefit of tax deferral as long as possible. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, but you are not required to being tak-

ing distributions from a traditional IRA until you reach age 70 1/2).

For maximum flexibility in distribution options, consider a Roth IRA. Roth IRAs have no mandatory distributions at any age. You can even pass your Roth IRA on to your heirs, thereby continuing the tax-deferred accumulation — and potential tax-free withdrawals — for another generation. Remember that withdrawals from Roth or traditional IRAs before you reach age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.

Other investment income

Do not forget to add the income generated by investments in non-tax-advantaged accounts. Include stock and mutual fund dividends and interest on treasury bills and all types of bonds.

Your financial consultant can help you refine your income and expense projections to account for such factors as inflation and potential investment returns as part of an overall financial master plan that addresses the allocation of all assets and needs for insurance and estate planning.

Knowing how much you will need to live on while you are retired, accounting for all the sources of income will help ensure that you achieve the standard of living you expect in your golden years.

Leila Gough is an associate vice president, investments with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She helps clients define and reach their investment goals. She can be reached at 510-273-8851. Check out our page at www.agedwards.com.

On a boat, you're in it together

Close quarters require couples to rethink space, sharing

Living aboard. To many home owners, this phrase means next to nothing. To many boat owners, the phrase has serious deleterious connotations: the image is one of an unemployed, unkempt loner who does not maintain himself or the boat lived upon, doesn't use the boat's holding tank, and does use the boat's head, thus fouling marina waters.

We keep our boat in a pristine marina nearby, and our boat neighbor live-aboards are no different from our house neighbors: the parking lot holds the requisite Swedish station wagons and designer SUVs.

We didn't really consider ourselves "live aboard" candidates. Maybe some day.

Fate and building contractors have a way of changing perspectives.

We were rebuilding our house and had moved into an apartment for the duration. In late April, we were promised delivery of our completed home in July. Thinking of the "creeping delays" common to the building industry, we privately planned our move-in date for September, and decided to try living aboard, just for the summer.

We moved into our mostly completed house in June, one year later. In the meantime, the winter we lived on the boat was one of the wettest and coldest on record.

Every morning we hustled to the shower facilities, 1/8 mile across the parking lot. The laundry went to the wash-and-fold in town once a week. I kept my work pumps in a storage container in the trunk of my car, and wore rain boots from the boat to the parking lot, and changed.

And we would do it again, in a heartbeat.

Many years ago, when I was in a previous, unhappy marriage, some friends had sold their very large

Living Aboard

By Marie Alison



Marie Alison

"I was curious and appalled. How could they stand to live in such a confined space?"

home and moved aboard their very small boat.

I was curious and appalled. How could they stand to live in such a confined space? I wondered. How would they ever have any privacy?

I learned, when we moved aboard, that "confinement and privacy" were not issues.

By boating standards, the room on our boat was generous. We shared a 42-foot trawler-style motor yacht, with a forward V-berth and full head, a main salon and galley, and an aft double berth with another full head.

One of the first small adjustments learned aboard is an economy of motion: if he's working in the engine room, I need to be near enough to hand down tools needed to work in the cramped space. I also have to avoid moving around, or risk tripping on the open hatches that were the floor of the main salon.

While repairs were under way, I sat at the table above the open hatch and did cross word puzzles.

Now let's say I'm cooking in the small galley. He can't push past me and risk spillage or burns, but I need him close at hand to help with heavy pots or hand over utensils in tight quarters. At those times, he'd usu-

ally read.

The intimacy of space became the best part for us. In the house, if he wanted to do paper work, and I wanted to play computer solitaire, we had separate rooms for those things.

Aboard ship, we learned much about compromise and shared enjoyment as well as shared work.

Another difference between living on land and living on water is routine maintenance. On a boat, maintenance is required and constant. "Deferred maintenance" becomes a leak. Leaks on boats have dire consequences.

Repairs became part of our lives. We went to our respective jobs, came home to the boat, read to each other, played cards, removed old varnish, repaired leaking windows, shared dock-side barbecues with boat neighbors and made many fine memories.

We're back in our house, for now. We sold that boat, and are in the process of buying another, faster, sport fisher-type. And in a few years, we plan to retire and explore the west coast, from Alaska, into the Columbia River, down to Baja, Mexico, and into the Sea of Cortez.

Until then, our boat is our weekend home at the shore.

Editor's note: We are reprinting this column today at the request of several readers who missed it the first time around and who "heard about it through the grapevine."

Marie Alison is the Real Estate Sales Manager for Hills Newspapers. She can be reached while on land at 510-339-4046.

Turn to the Automotive Section for car and truck reviews



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Cornish & Carey expand East Bay presence

Cornish and Carey Commercial International announce the opening of their newest office in Emeryville. The new office is the company's sixth in the Bay Area, and is part of a strategic expansion strategy in Northern California.

"We clearly recognize the growth potential of the East Bay market, and we intend to be a significant player in that growth," said Cornish & Carey President Bill Walsh.

The Emeryville office is headed by Cornish & Carey Senior Vice President Bill Nork, who until recently worked out of the firm's Wal-

nut Creek office. Nork is joined by Bill Banker, from the Walnut Creek office, as well as three well respected brokers from CB/Richard Ellis' Oakland office, Dick Keane, Gregory Weaver and Jim Clark.

The firm's office is located at 5885 Hollis St. in the heart of Emeryville. "Emeryville is a key strategic location in that it truly provides a significant presence in the I-880 market," said Nork.

Founded in 1935, Cornish & Carey Commercial ONCOR International provides a full range of real estate services throughout Northern

California. With more than 120 agents in six offices in Palo Alto, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Walnut Creek and Sacramento — and now Emeryville — Cornish & Carey Commercial ranks among the top 10 brokerage firms in the Pacific region and top 25 nationally.

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OAKLAND
FLORENCE AVE. — NEW PRICE! 1/4 ACRE LOT ON UNPAVED ROAD. Below the Warren Freeway. Ed Fagrey, 530-3140.

NEWLY REFURBISHED 2 bedroom home, spacious living & dining room, and a work area in the 2+ car garage. Moon Tam, 747-1620.

ON COMMERCIAL LOT. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, very large garage & workshop. Several off-street parking spaces. Jack Cooley, 748-1778.

5 UNITS! Corner store, Beauty shop, office & two 2 bedroom apartments. Large lot with yard & double garage. \$184,500. Call Les Dronick, 748-1759.

TWO UNITS! 2 houses on 1 lot. One unit is a 1 bedroom and the other unit is a 2 bedroom. Kitty Wan, 747-1621.

COZY COTTAGE IN GLENVIEW DISTRICT. 2 bedroom plus a den sleeping area, plush carpet, updated kitchen, landscaped yard, deck in back yard. Kathy Ghiselli, 522-6425.

LOTS OF POSSIBILITIES! Can be live/work and expandable. Plan for expansion available. Close to schools, transportation & freeway. Extra space in basement. Kitty Wan, 747-1621.

PRICE REDUCED ON THESE 4 UNITS. All units have 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Ron Bang, 748-1766.

SAN LEANDRO
SMALL RANCH STYLE HOME. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Debra Gorman, 769-9109.

MOBILE HOME PARK. 18 slots, 1 store front, 1 single family residence & 1 apartment. Moon Tam, 747-1620.

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'Blemished borrowers' can land home financing Events

By Rene Boisvert
FOR HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Your credit report may be full of dings, you may have a history of foreclosure and bankruptcy, but you may still get a loan for home purchase, refinance, or even cash out of your current home. It doesn't matter whether you have charge-offs, collections or tax liens on your credit report, as long as you can meet the guidelines for loan approval by a multitude of lenders who specialize in the credit damaged borrower.

The A team

The lending industry uses categories to assess the credit risk of any particular borrower. If the property checks out and you have sufficient income, impeccable credit and the required down payment you are considered an "A" borrower. An "A" borrower can walk into almost any lender and get a mortgage loan. A borrower can still be considered an "A" borrower, as long as the other areas compensate for the weakness.

For example, a borrower who exceeds the required monthly debt-to-income ratios could offer a larger down payment. Many lenders will also excuse modest credit blemishes for a reasonable explanation is provided. Maybe you're in a job transition or have expensive medical problems.

Being 30-60 days late on one credit card is a typical blemish lenders might not balk at.

But what about those who have more serious marks against their credit? Depending on how tarnished their credit history has been, lenders will typically place borrowers into

the following credit categories:

'A' credit

Good to excellent credit. Acceptable blemishes within the last two years: Charge-offs, or collection accounts of minor amounts (ie. less than \$500 in all) are acceptable. Medical bills, including hospitalization and clinic visits are usually disregarded by the lender. As for payment habits, the borrower can have no more than two 30-day late payments, or one 60-day late payment on revolving or installment credit.

'B' credit

Reasonably good credit. Acceptable blemishes within the past 18 months. Up to four 30-day late payments, or up to two 60-day late payments are allowed on revolving or installment credit. If the credit ding is an isolated incident, a 90-day late payment is allowed within past 12 months. Charge-offs, or collection accounts which are less than \$1,000 in all are acceptable.

Outstanding collection accounts less than four years old must be paid. Bankruptcy or foreclosure that had been discharged or settled previous to the 18 month time frame is allowed.

'C' credit

Significant past credit problems. Acceptable blemishes within the past 12 months include no more than six 30-day late payments, three 60-day late payments, or two 90-day late payments are allowed on revolving or installment credit.

Open collection accounts and charge-offs may not exceed \$4,000 and must be paid in full. Bankruptcy or foreclosure that had been dis-

charged or settled prior to the last 12 months is acceptable.

'D' credit

Severe past credit problems include a sporadic disregard for timely payments. Open collection accounts, charge-offs, and judgments must be paid through the loan proceeds. The borrower who had filed bankruptcy and had been discharged prior to the last six months is acceptable, as much as the ex-homeowner who had his previous home foreclosed and settled prior to the last six months. However, mortgage payments generally cannot be longer than 90 days past due.

Nothing is 'hard and fast'

The above are general industry guidelines to make lending judgment on the borrower's loan application. There are no hard and fast rules of separating the borrower on the border line between one credit category and another.

Also, there are compromising variations between one lender to the next depending on the degree of subjectivity involved in underwriting and how much each lender wants to commit their funds.

Depending on the extent of the

blemishes, borrowers with less than perfect credit histories can expect to pay higher than market interest rates for their home loan.

But if getting into a home or refinancing out of a bind is one's goal, there are plenty of lenders out there among whom the homebuyer or borrower can shop around to get the appropriate financing.

Borrowers usually find that a consultation with a mortgage broker will provide them tremendous benefit. As mortgage brokers typically deal with a multitude of lenders they will know which lender will be best suited for a borrower's special set of credit circumstances.

Recently an Oakland Hills resident found her way to my office. She had the unfortunate circumstance of being in a contentious divorce in which her soon to be ex-husband was not paying the required support. Her income alone (which was from self-employment and unverifiable) could not support her house payments and necessary living expenses. She began falling behind on the house payments and her credit card obligations. Her home's lender, running out of patience, finally filed a Notice of Default to initiate foreclosure on her home.

Now, being a single parent, in a middle of a divorce, without verifiable income, bill collectors banging on her door, and her home in foreclosure this Oakland hills resident was faced with the daunting task of finding and qualifying for a new home loan and having to find it quickly before the bank took her home.

This category of lateness and credit circumstances is normally considered a D credit, but in this case, with the assistance of a professional mortgage broker, her case was explained well to the lender resulting in the upgrading of the borrower to the C credit class and her home was refinanced with terms within her ability to pay.

She has put her life back on track and is doing well.

Rene G. Boisvert is a licensed real estate broker with 19 years of local real estate experience. He can be reached at Right Trac Financial Group, 510-444-8420, fax 510-444-3030, or rene@righttrac.com.

FROM PAGE C2

Ongoing

Credit counseling. Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit community service organization in Oakland has a series of free workshops. Registration is mandatory. Call (800) 501-SAVE.

Discover Oakland's changing skyline. Landmarks, churches and high-rises on one of the free guided walking tours sponsored by the city's Community and Economic Development Agency. Call 510-238-3234.

Sick plant clinic. Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month for a free Sick Plant Clinic at the UC Botanical Gardens, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. Drop in with a piece of a sick or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call 510-643-2755.

Have a non-profit event to list? Write us at 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland 94619 or e-mail jsnyder1@cctimes.com.



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4BR 2.5BA formal dining rm, family rm, 2 car garage, laundry rm, central heat #99012351 Sarah Lo (510) 235-3983

ALBANY

RARE CONDO IN GREAT LOCATION.....\$225,000
3BR with master suite, 2BA, 1 car attached garage, new paint and carpet. \$100 association fee. This is one-unit in a 4 unit building. #99011547 Sarah Lo (510) 235-3983

RICHMOND ANNEX

CUTE HOME IN THE ANNEX.....\$154,000
3BR 1BA, 2-car attached garage, almost 1,000 sq. ft. New carpet and kitchen cabinets. #99010360 Marcella Morrison (510) 235-1995

RICHMOND VIEW

DESIRABLE RICH. VIEW HOME ON EC BORDER..\$169,000
Spacious 2 BR 1BA HOME IN GREAT LOCATION, includes garage, fireplace, and large yard. #99014816 Jamie Lake (510) 843-9017

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Greg Gephart, Aileen Ivacez & her daughter, Deirdre

Billy has been a real estate agent in Berkeley for the last 15 years. He is a graduate of Columbia College in New York, where he studied Classics. For many years prior to real estate, Billy was a weaver, making men's and women's clothing and accessories, which he sold to stores and craft fairs throughout the country. He lives in North Berkeley, with his wife and 2 children. For personalized real estate services call Billy.



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FOR HILLS NEWSPAPERS

ALAMEDA

102 Bannister Wy. - \$250,000
2616 Edison Ct. - \$350,000
1828 Elm St. - \$190,000
1369 Hansen Ave. - \$325,000
1162 Island Dr. - \$222,000
1637 Lincoln Ave. - \$165,000
2618 Lincoln Ave. - \$348,000
2843 Madison St. - \$296,000
1304 Park Ave. - \$251,000
2165 San Jose Ave. - \$365,000
1416 Santa Clara Ave. - \$330,000
2101 Shoreline Dr. - \$177,000
960 Shorepoint Ct. #109 - \$155,000
965 Shorepoint Ct. #30 - \$121,500
217 Stanbridge Ct. - \$368,000
400 Tideway Dr. - \$315,000
1305 Webster St. #C200 - \$123,000

ALBANY

714 Cerrito St. - \$250,000
830 Hillside Ave. - \$510,000
938 Jackson St. - \$262,000
1035 Key Route Blvd. - \$210,000
1359 Marin Ave. - \$410,000
1083 Peralta Ave. - \$392,500
555 Pierce St. #1003 - \$125,000
535 Pierce St. #4100 - \$180,000
4201 Pierce St. #4201 - \$196,000
535 Pierce St. #4414 - \$250,000
555 Pierce St. #C379 - \$142,500
723 Pierce St. - \$230,000
830 Ramona Ave. - \$310,000

BERKELEY

2430 5th St. #M - \$325,000
933 Addison St. #933A - \$125,000
2309 Ashby Ave. - \$221,000
920 Camelia St. - \$335,000
657 Colusa Ave. - \$475,000
701 Colusa Ave. - \$368,500
1174 Cragmont Ave. - \$533,500
515 Cragmont Ave. - \$531,000
28 Fairlawn Dr. - \$350,000
429 Kentucky Ave. - \$425,000
2026 Prince St. - \$227,000
1322 Queens Rd. - \$352,000
1793 San Lorenzo Ave. - \$420,000
2314 Spaulding Ave. - \$275,000
1242 Spruce St. - \$360,000
625 Spruce St. - \$700,000
593 The Alameda - \$645,000
2614 Warring St. #2 - \$225,000
1 Whitaker Ave. - \$231,500

EL CERRITO

905 Balra Dr. - \$200,000
401 Colusa Ave. - \$285,000
540 Kearney St. - \$210,000
5315 Macdonald Ave. - \$134,000
5432 Poinsett Ave. - \$245,000
2517 Tamalpais Ave. - \$480,000
8060 Terrace Dr. - \$395,000

407 Village Dr. - \$274,000

EL SOBRANTE

761 Alhambra Rd. - \$146,000
2470 Rancho Rd. - \$290,000
4720 San Pablo Dam Rd. - \$85,000
310 Shirley Vista St. - \$195,000
3853 Valley Ln. - \$135,000

EMERYVILLE

2 Admiral Dr. #284 - \$290,000
2 Anchor Dr. #480F - \$97,000
6363 Christie Ave. #515 - \$156,000
9 Commodore Dr. #205A - \$119,000
3 Commodore Dr. #457 - \$75,000

OAKLAND

1832 102nd Ave. - \$129,000
1415 11th Ave. - \$110,000
2245 14th Ave. - \$125,000
2503 19th Ave. - \$171,000
2759 26th Ave. - \$92,000
1451 29th Ave. - \$130,000
1609 51st Ave. - \$130,000
664 54th St. - \$95,000
572 56th St. - \$199,500
2222 57th Ave. - \$131,000
831 58th St. - \$191,000
425 62nd St. - \$371,000
441 63rd St. - \$430,000
484 63rd St. - \$200,000
2646 66th Ave. - \$120,000
3519 66th Ave. - \$145,000
1620 79th Ave. - \$100,000
1622 81st Ave. - \$125,000
1908 83rd Ave. - \$111,000
2040 87th Ave. - \$265,000
330 8th St. #3B - \$106,000
2101 90th Ave. - \$83,000
1619 92nd Ave. - \$140,000
2021 9th Ave. - \$125,000
2770 Argyle St. - \$330,000
707 Arimo Ave. - \$575,000
5740 Ayala Ave. - \$315,000
5545 Balboa Dr. - \$610,000
565 Bellevue Ave. #2306 - \$273,000
565 Bellevue Ave. #2505 - \$183,000
565 Bellevue Ave. #707C - \$265,000
389 Belmont St. #307 - \$197,000
6490 Benvenue Ave. #1 - \$439,000
21 Bowles Pl. - \$507,000
1795 Brandon St. - \$200,000
1622 Bridge Ave. - \$122,000
3816 Brighton Ave. - \$239,000
4027 Brookdale Ave. - \$153,500
3231 Brunell Dr. - \$389,000
260 Caldecott Ln. #199 - \$162,000
180 Caldecott Ln. #210 - \$156,000
320 Caldecott Ln. #429 - \$259,000
567 Capell St. - \$242,000
9530 Castlewood St. - \$260,000
2855 Chelsea Dr. - \$517,000
6025 Chelton Dr. - \$521,000
7500 Circle Hill Dr. - \$232,000
455 Crescent St. #104 - \$86,500
8816 D St. - \$107,000

On the average

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST SALES: \$121,500
HIGHEST SALES: \$368,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$255,970

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 13
LOWEST SALES: \$125,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$510,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$266,769

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST SALES: \$125,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$700,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$374,973

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST SALES: \$134,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$480,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$277,875

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST SALES: \$85,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$290,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$170,200

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST SALES: \$75,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$290,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$147,400

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 114
LOWEST SALES: \$80,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$851,500
AVERAGE SALES: \$262,289

3009 Davis St. - \$163,000
7415 Deerwood Ave. - \$149,500
3962 Delmont Ave. - \$165,000
5524 East 17th St. - \$105,000
1602 East 19th St. - \$137,500
1024 East 20th St. - \$140,000
1739 East 23rd St. - \$105,000
2014 East 25th St. - \$80,000
2138 East 29th St. - \$130,500
2816 Eastman Ave. - \$118,000
3015 Eastman Ave. - \$122,000
644 El Paseo Dr. - \$108,000
423 Elwood Ave. - \$374,000
2586 Foothill Blvd. #C - \$94,000
988 Franklin St. #803 - \$132,000
8070 Greenridge Dr. - \$304,500
6055 Grizzly Peak Blvd. - \$392,000
3218 Guido St. - \$340,000
6850 Gunn Dr. - \$350,000
651 Haddon Rd. - \$510,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 29
LOWEST SALES: \$80,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$340,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$175,224

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 34
LOWEST SALES: \$110,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$429,500
AVERAGE SALES: \$211,191

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST SALES: \$130,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$358,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$209,375

■ This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes. All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233.

6923 Halliday Ave. - \$120,000
4409 Harbord Dr. - \$477,000
3768 Harrison St. #106 - \$83,000
5332 Hillen Dr. - \$117,000
42 Homeleg Ln. - \$295,000
1 Kingwood Rd. - \$345,000
427 Lagunitas Ave. #304 - \$93,500
5925 Laird Ave. - \$155,000
320 Lee St. - \$375,000
2582 Leimert Blvd. - \$386,000
1037 Longridge Rd. - \$500,000
4042 Magee Ave. - \$140,000
1012 Mandana Blvd. - \$235,000
14 Marlin Cove - \$515,000
4451 Masterson St. - \$196,000
274 Mather St. #12 - \$150,000
3810 Midvale Ave. - \$275,000
5807 Morpeth St. - \$380,000
367 Newton Ave. - \$196,500
553 North St. - \$210,000

806 Northvale Rd. - \$715,000
6780 Oakwood Dr. - \$552,000
3534 Penniman Ave. - \$178,000
294 Perkins St. - \$267,000
7045 Pinehaven Rd. - \$485,000
3529 Randolph Ave. - \$249,000
2619 Rawson St. - \$115,000
4652 Redwood Rd. - \$290,000
4676 Reinhardt Dr. - \$365,000
6145 Ridgemont Dr. - \$625,000
6058 Rockridge Blvd. - \$851,500
15 Samaria Ln. - \$548,000
386 Santa Clara Ave. #206 - \$175,000
3298 School St. - \$188,000
2706 Short St. - \$117,000
5 Starview Dr. - \$510,000
3050 Suter St. - \$160,000
5321 Thomas Ave. - \$280,000
1302 Trestle Glen Rd. - \$452,000
1690 Trestle Glen Rd. - \$501,000
3987 Turnley Ave. - \$426,000
3524 Vactor Ave. - \$362,000
625 Walavista Ave. - \$603,000
877 West MacArthur Blvd. - \$138,000
3926 Woodruff Ave. - \$320,000

RICHMOND

632 38th St. - \$174,000
741 39th St. - \$154,500
688 Amador St. - \$159,000
5904 Amend Rd. - \$288,000
150 Anahid Ln. - \$318,000
320 Ash Ln. #11 - \$140,000
5487 Cerro Sur - \$245,000
1228 Club Dr. - \$182,000
3039 Colette Dr. - \$155,000
5475 Country View Dr. - \$340,000
89 Crystal Cove Ct. - \$270,000
2808 Cutting Blvd. - \$80,000
577 Duboce Ave. - \$101,000
2138 Dunn Ave. - \$115,000
1828 Hellsing Ave. - \$132,500
20 Lighthouse Ln. - \$300,000
856 Manor Rd. - \$131,000
653 Marina Wy. - \$95,000
820 Pennsylvania Ave. - \$100,000
214 Ripley Ave. - \$80,000
3018 Roosevelt Ave. - \$148,500
4597 Santa Rita Rd. - \$279,000
3034 Shane Dr. - \$170,000
3055 Shane Dr. - \$148,000
5429 Sutter Ave. - \$177,000
2534 Treedside Wy. - \$127,000
6121 Van Fleet Ave. - \$160,000

1006 View Dr. - \$145,000
904 Vista Heights Rd. - \$145,000

SAN LEANDRO

1582 141st Ave. - \$172,500
15023 Alexandria St. - \$172,500
818 Alice Ave. - \$225,000
348 Anza Wy. - \$214,000
4126 Bacinada Ct. - \$219,000
242 Bellevue Dr. - \$219,000
1049 Billings Blvd. - \$177,000
408 Bradrick Dr. - \$209,000
1109 Camelia Ct. - \$179,000
1400 Carpenter St. #119 - \$145,000
1400 Carpentier St. #210 - \$145,000
15211 Central Ave. - \$130,000
15224 Central Ave. - \$180,000
705 Dolores Ave. - \$189,000
1252 Dorothy Ave. - \$208,000
631 Elderberry Wy. - \$238,000
1922 Evergreen Ave. - \$238,000
964 Helen Ave. - \$232,000
243 Kenilworth Ave. - \$110,000
894 Lewelling Blvd. #11 - \$110,000
266 Lorraine Blvd. - \$108,000
743 McClure Ave. - \$225,000
4022 Monterey Blvd. - \$200,000
13122 Neptune Dr. - \$180,000
14166 Outrigger Dr. #20 - \$200,000
608 Pershing Dr. - \$175,000
15209 Ranger Rd. - \$415,500
14728 Saturn Dr. - \$189,000
1566 View Dr. - \$429,500
1944 Vining Dr. - \$230,000
663 Warden Ave. - \$175,000
606 White Fir Dr. - \$194,000
15664 Wilkes Blvd. - \$221,000
14905 Wily St. - \$240,000

SAN LORENZO

16058 Berkshire Rd. - \$189,000
859 Bockman Rd. - \$193,000
15937 Cambrian Dr. - \$358,000
1866 Corte Breve - \$220,000
1393 Culver Pl. - \$130,000
15865 Paseo Largausta - \$177,000
18184 Rainer Ave. - \$169,000
16012 Silverleaf Dr. - \$270,000
16018 Silverleaf Dr. - \$270,000
20334 Times Ave. - \$270,000
17503 Via Arriba - \$212,000
15948 Via Cordoba - \$177,000
15862 Via Del Sol - \$184,000
1044 Via Honda - \$168,500
908 Via Honda - \$216,500
15701 Via Represa - \$228,000

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PACIFIC UNION HOMES... QUALITY FOR LIFE

Gardens

FROM PAGE C1

where drainage is more of a concern than drought. While reproducing this type of garden is possible in the moist Pacific Northwest, it is not appropriate for the Bay Area.

At the same time it is ironic that as English gardeners are now trying to emulate what they perceive to be the "California style!"

And why should we trust gardeners' references that tell us in detail about the careful indoor culture of the beautiful South African Clivia Lily (Clivia miniata)? The best way to grow this plant here in the Bay Area is to toss it under the shade of a tree or large shrub and forget about it, until it rewards our indoor culture with handsome orange flowers in early spring — it is almost a weed in some gardens!

Because our Mediterranean climate is typically dry in summer, water can be a scarce commodity. In the Bay Area, where almost a century of water projects have dammed or diverted water to our urban centers.

We now take water for granted. People say you can grow anything in California — just add water. But this might be true to some degree, is this really wise? And even with supplemental water, plants of course are not fooled.

Do we really want our landscapes to be so dependent upon this artificially supplied water? Is it our desire to spend large amounts of time and money figuring out the watering of our gardens? The drip irrigation boom of the last decade has decided that it is not worth the cost — there are so many problems with maintenance headaches!

But even so, it is hard for anyone in California to imagine a garden without supplemental water.

Is it possible to create a garden without irrigation? I asked this of a panel of speakers at last year's Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies, a symposium held in San Francisco at the Pacific Horticulture magazine and Strybing Arboretum. Of several experts, only one could answer from experience.

This answer came from Heidi Klemm, who gardens on the island of Mallorca in Spain. Here, water is not generally available, and when it is, it is carefully rationed. Watering without water is, therefore, a necessity. But judging from the photos in her book, The Mediterranean Gardener (Editorial Moll, 1996), this is not a limitation.

There is also an extensive list of plants appropriate to this climate, many easily available locally in the Bay Area, others worth encouraging nurseries and nurseries to provide.

Apparently it is possible to grow beautiful gardens with minimal or no irrigation — and isn't it surprising that here in California, where we have such a wealth of horticulture, that we are not the pioneers of such gardening tradition.

Supply and demand

One of the problems always facing gardeners and designers is finding that particular plant you wish to grow. Locally, with so many diverse horticultural passions, it is impossible for nurseries to stock everything anyone might wish to grow.

These firms are in business, and it makes no sense to stock plants in which no one expresses interest. But the public does not know about a plant, regardless of how wonderful it might be, or appropriate it is to our local climate, growers eventually drop it from their lists.

A few years back, I tried to find a particular plant for a landscape I

RESOURCES

■ **Berkeley Horticultural Nursery**, 1310 McGee Ave. (near Hopkins), Berkeley, (510) 526-4704

■ **The Dry Garden**, 6556 Shattuck Ave. (near Ashby), Oakland; (510) 547-3564

■ **East Bay Nursery**, 2332 San Pablo Blvd. (near Bancroft Way), Berkeley; (510) 845-6490.

■ **Magic Gardens**, 729 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; (510) 644-1992

■ **Orchard Nursery**, 4010 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette; (925) 284-4474

■ **Regional Parks Botanic Garden**, Wildcat Canyon Road at the foot of South Park Drive, Tilden Park, Berkeley; (510) 841-8732.

■ **UC Botanical Garden**, Centennial Drive, Berkeley, (510) 642-3343

■ Books mentioned in this article, if unavailable locally, can be found at the **Strybing Arboretum bookstore** at the entrance to that garden, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

was designing — Rhamnus alaternus "variegatus," the variegated Italian buckthorn. This Mediterranean native is tough and easy of culture, thriving in heat and drought, producing dense, evergreen foliage right down to the ground.

An excellent hedge material, able to be pruned quite narrow, thriving in poor, dry soils. This variegated

form is very handsome and more restrained of growth than the vigorous green form. But no growers had it at the time! Even though I had purchased it years before, I could find it nowhere.

In my search, I made sure every grower I talked with was aware of this desirable plant and that it was "out of the trade." Now, a few years later, apparently some of them were listening, as this is one of the "new" plants, available in many nurseries locally. Many other plants silently drop out of sight all of the time, unless someone speaks out. Your local nursery and growers are always interested in what you'd like to plant in your garden. Ask them about plants specifically adapted to our Mediterranean climate — they will respond to the demand.

Learn from others' experiences

Most gardeners are friendly and generous, especially with advice. This can greatly assist us in reaching our goals, but poor advice also abounds. Much folklore has been created around gardens and gardening, not all of it useful, not all of it is based upon our climate. But the Bay Area is full of knowledgeable horticulturists, willing to share information and relay their local experiences.

Part two of this story leads next week's Real Estate & Home

Sean A. O'Hara is an East Bay-based free-lance landscape consultant and writer. Write him at sean.ohara@poboxes.com or call 510-987-0577.

Report

FROM PAGE C3

work could be done for less. However, after studying the buyers' inspection report, the contractor's proposal and the buyers' offer to split the cost of the drainage work 50-50 with the sellers, the Blacks concluded that they had a fair deal.

The solution is not always this easy, especially when contractors can't agree. Keep in mind that there is an element of subjectivity involved in the inspection process.

For example, two contractors might disagree on the remedy for a dry-rotted window: one calling for repair and the other for replacement. Recently, one roofer recommended

a total roof replacement for a cost of \$6,000.

A second roofer disagreed. His report said that the roof should last another three to four years if the owner completed \$800 of maintenance work.

Based on the two reports, the buyers and sellers were able to negotiate a satisfactory monetary solution to the problem for an amount that was in between the two estimates.

It's problematic when inspectors are wrong. But it happens. Inspectors are only human. A home inspector looked at a house in Oakland hills and issued a report condemning the furnace which he said needed to be replaced. The sellers called in a heating contractor who declared that the furnace was fit and that it didn't need to be replaced.

The buyers were not sure about

the furnace, given the difference of opinions. So, the seller called in a representative from the local gas company. The buyers knew that the gas company representative would have to shut the furnace down if it was dangerous. He found nothing wrong with the furnace, and the buyers were satisfied.

Sometimes finding the right expert to give an opinion on a suspected house problem is the answer.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Buying and Selling a Home in California," and "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide," both from Chronicle Books. Order copies from Chronicle books: 800-722-6657.

IRS

FROM PAGE C4

estate tax they pay but when a portion of these expenses are deducted for an office-in-home, not only is income tax reduced but there is a reduction of self-employment tax as well. Additionally, claiming a home office means that a portion of such expenses as rent, utilities, insurance, and depreciation, which could not

otherwise be deducted, can now be claimed as business expenses.

Another benefit of claiming a home office is that a greater percentage of car expenses become deductible. Without an office-in-home, most taxpayers cannot claim the miles driven from home to the first business stop of the day and from the last stop of the day back home. With a deductible home office, every trip from home to another place of business is considered a trip between two business locations and is fully

deductible. A tax professional can provide more information about this as can a copy of IRS publication 587, "Business Use of Your Home."

Jan Zobel, EA is a Montclair tax professional who specializes in working with self-employed people. Part of this article is excerpted from her book *Minding Her Own Business: The Self-Employed Woman's Guide to Taxes and Recordkeeping* which is available at bookstores or from EastHill Press at (800) 490-4829.

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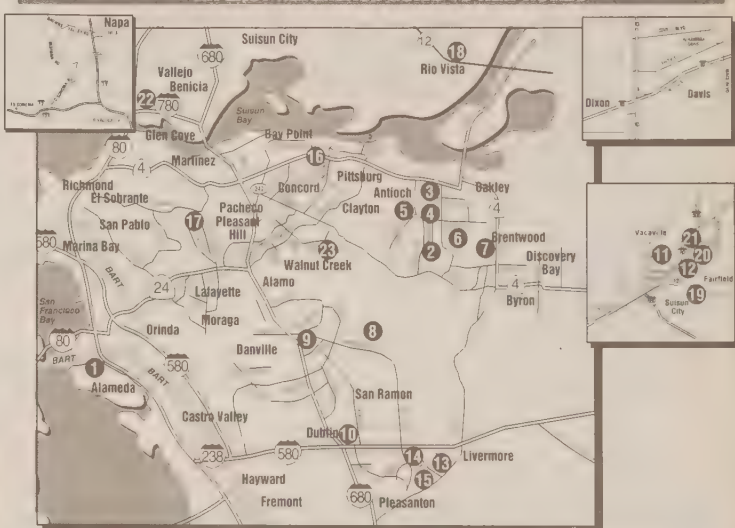
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ALAMEDA

1 The Gardens

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ANTIOCH

2 Castellana at Black Diamond Knolls

From the \$220,000's. New Release! Richland's distinctive tower accented architecture is a must see. Lrg. 4 & 5 BR. 2200-2600 sq ft. w/3 car gar. country kit. 7000-sq ft. lots. Lone Tree to Mokelumne Dr. Open 11-5. 925-706-8855 or www.richlandinfo.com

3 Daybreak

From low \$200,000's. Six plans offer 1551-2400 sq ft., 3-5 BR. Many on cul-de-sac lots, flexible designs inc. bonus spaces. Loc. near Deer Vly High. shopping. Open daily 925-756-7782

4 Lone Tree Estates-Masters Collection

From mid \$200,000's. New Phase next weekend! Recreation ctr., pool, spa, tennis, more! Get more for your money! Cul-de-sac lots, 1 & 2 story. 2127-2896 sq ft., 3-6BR, 3 car gar., ext. std. amenities & opts. Lone Tree. Murwood. Davidson Homes. Open 10-5. 925-778-3092

5 Taurelle

From high \$200,000's. Grand Opening! Richland's European-style estate homes. 2715-3035 sq ft., main room, near open space & golf. 4-6 BR & 4 car gar. 1 & 2 stories. Lots avg. 10,000+ sq ft. Dramatic entries, huge fam rms, more! 925-706-8883 or www.richlandinfo.com

BRENTWOOD

6 Diablo Vista

From the \$180,000's. Now Selling! Luxury living at its most affordable! Exciting new single-fam. neighborhood widens to 2700 sq ft. 5 BR, 3 BA. central comm. loc. At Fairview and San Jose. Richmond American Homes. 925-516-7193

Summerset at Brentwood

From \$164,900. Golf, tennis, swim, walking trails; active adult living for 55 & over. 590E to Vasco Rd. No. to Brentwood/Hwy 4 E to Lone Tree, rt. to Brentwood. Open M-F 9-5, Sat/Sun 10-5. 888-786-7738

DANVILLE

8 Shadow Creek Manor

From low \$500,000's. 48 luxury homes, 4-5 BR. Take 680 to Crows Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara, follow signs. Open Mon 1-5, Wed-Sun 10-5. 925-736-7369

9 Campbell Place

From \$700,000's. Now Open for Preview! Ltd. edition of only 20 craftsman-style homes on lrg. view lots with flexible floorplans 680 to Sycamore Vly Rd. E., rt. to Camino Tassajara. Left on Glasgow Dr. rt. on Glasgow Cir. rt. on Campbell Pl. By Pacific Union Homes. 925-743-0238

DUBLIN

10 Merlion at Emerald Park

From high \$300,000's. NEW RELEASE! Models open. Luxury living in master-planned community with 3 home designs up to 2200 sq ft., 5 BR & 3 baths. Lrg. super family room, retreat options. Near I-580 & Dublin BART. Hacienda exit no. off 580. Open daily 10-6, Mon 2-6. Richmond American Homes. 925-829-8029

FAIRFIELD

11 First Green at Rancho Solano CC

From the \$300,000's. Surrounded by 3 fairways & views of rolling hills. Loc. in established neighborhood, w/shopping nearby. 4-5 BR, 2952-3429 sq ft., 2-3 car gar. Easy commuting w/I-80. Centex Homes 707-426-5211

12 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley

Coming Soon. Spacious homes with up to 6 BR and 4 BA. 3 Plans, approx. 2192-2937 sq ft. Lrg. bonus rm., den, mstr. retreat. Richmond American Homes. 1-888-420-2700

LIVERMORE

13 Ravenswood

From mid \$400,000's. Furnished Models Now Open! 26 country estates, 1/4 ac. sites. 4 BR, up to 3 BA, 3 car gar. 1&2 story. 2554-3246 sq ft. 580 E to So. Vasco Rd. rt. to Emily Open 11-5 closed Thurs. 925-449-5458 www.creativeidots.com/ravenswood

LIVERMORE

14 Ridgecrest

From mid \$300,000's. GRAND OPENING! 39 luxurious homes. 4 designs. to 2273 sq ft., 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 3 car gar. 1&2 story. 2554-3246 sq ft. 580 E to So. Vasco Rd. rt. to Emily Open 11-5 closed Thurs. 925-449-5458 www.creativeidots.com/ravenswood

15 Vintage Collection

From high \$500,000's. Scenic homes by Delco Bldrs. 1/3-1/2 ac. w/views of Livermore Vly/wineyards. Close to Ruby Hill Golf Course, top rated schools. Spacious floorplans, complete amenities. Open Thurs-Mon 925-606-5505

PITTSBURG

16 Monterra: Designer & Summit Series

From low \$200,000's. 3-6 BR w/opts to 7.8 floorplans. 1547-3243 sq ft., 2.5 car gar. lots of opts. Walk to Bart Hwy 4 to Bailey Rd. So. rt. on W. Island. 11 on Woodhill Dr. Open Sat-Thurs 10-6-Fri 1-6. 925-458-8881 www.seenhomes.com

PLEASANT HILL

17 Grayson Woods

From low \$500,000's. Final Phase release this weekend! Perfect loc for commuters. Two-story, 1990-3135 sq ft., 3-6 BR, 3 car gar. Future golf course, low maint., 4 mi. to 3 hys/BART Taylor Blvd to Grayson. Davidson Homes. Open 10-6, Mon 1-6. 925-274-0600

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18 Summerset at Rio Vista

From \$142,900. Golf, tennis, spas, recreational activities for active adults 55 & over. Open M-F 9-5, Sat/Sun 10-5. Hwy 4 East to 160 No. to Hwy 12 West, rt. on Summerset Dr. 1-800-589-4080

SUISUN CITY

19 Hearthstone

From low \$190,000's. By Hofmann Co. Contemporary 1&2 story floorplans. 1564-2219 sq ft. I-80 No. to Hwy 12 East, rt. on Lawler Ranch Pkwy. Open daily 707-429-1593

VACAVILLE

20 Brighton/Cambridge at Westgate

From \$170,000's. Beautifully designed 3, 4 & 5 BR homes by Seeno. 13 floorplans, 1329-3312 sq ft., 2.5 car gar., convenient loc. I-80 to Alamo Dr. to Peabody 707-448-6243 for Brighton or 707-449-4604 for Cambridge. From low \$200,000's. www.seenhomes.com

21 Diamond Grove

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VALLEJO

22 Crystal Pointe

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23 Oak Creek & Shadow Brook Estates

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10055 BROADWAY TER. 5bd/4ba w/glorious views of Bay, SF & **\$1,495,000**
3 Bridges! **New Listing!** Prudential CA, Mary Ruth Armstrong 654-9507

6510 PINENEEDLE DR. Montclair. **New listing.** Fab, new 4+2/5 **\$1,335,000**
w/Bay & SF vws from most rooms. Pacific Union, Ann Nichols 339-6460

1700 GRANDVIEW DR. Claremont Hills. Nw 4bd/4ba Spanish Med. **\$1,150,000**
Courtyrd & fountain. 3 decks. Bay vws. Pacific Union, Joe Knowland 339-6460

7118 MARLBOROUGH TER. Claremont Hills. 5bd/3+ba. View. New **\$988,000**
Construction. Top Quality Detail! Re/Max East Bay, Patrick K. 339-4100 2-5

6620 ESTATES DR. Montclair. New construction. 3+bd/3+ba w/sep **\$985,000**
guest suite. Gourmet kit. Views! A Must See! Prudential CA, Kurt Meyer 268-8123

6006 ACACIA. Claremont Pines. 4bd/3+ba. Elegant Trad'l. GG/Bay **\$939,000**
views. Gardens. Lg kitchen/family rm, den. Pacific Union, Dee Knowland 339-6460

484 GRAVATT DR. Claremont Hills. New contemp w/BIG BAY VIEWS. **\$879,000**
4bd, 2.5ba, office, kit/family combo. Cool sophistication. Unique & Fabulous!
Wells & Bennett, Carol Robbiano 531-7000 X238

2245 TUNNEL. Oakland Hills. Fab modern construction w/a view all **\$799,000**
the way to the bay! 4bd/3.5ba. Prudential CA, Candice Economides 845-0200

1830 GRANDVIEW DR. Claremont Hills. 3+bd/2+ba Craftsman **\$775,000**
style w/quality! Bay vws, decks. Level yd area. Pacific Union, Bonnie Hirsch 339-6460

39 STAR KNOLL PL. Rockridge. **New Listing!** Masterpiece of **\$775,000**
contemp design. Private .36 acre. Bay vws. Beautifully restored. 3bd/2.5ba.
Templeton Company, Leslie Avant 652-2133 X122 2-4

1834 GRAND VIEW DR. Soaring walls. Light-filled spaces. Sweeping **\$769,000**
Bay & City vws. 3/2.5 w/study, FR, garden. Templeton, 652-2133 X140 & X133 2-4

6077 FAIRLANE. Montclair. Glorious, spacious Oakland Hills 3bdrm, **\$759,000**
2.5ba contemp w/SF & Bay views. Don't miss! Prudential CA, M. Daniels 428-0900

6037 FAIRLANE DR. Montclair. New construction 5/3+ w/spacious **\$738,000**
rms. SF bay views from deck & upr level. Pacific Union, Kathy Flynn 339-6460

1021 AQUARIUS WAY. Montclair. 4bd/2.5ba. Family & rumpus rms. **\$719,950**
Courtyrd entry. Mstr w/frpl. 2 decks. Prudential CA, Nancy Dean 337-7922

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-5

13651 CAMPUS DR. Oakland Hills/Ridgemont. 4bd/3ba, 11yr contemp **\$699,000**
Unobstructed pano SF Bay View! 3-car garage. Ingrid Low 510-205-3778/339-3233

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4:30

6810 SHERWOOD DR. Oakland Hills. **New listing!** New, quality 4bd/ **\$685,000**
2+ba Craftsman style. Kit/fram rm. Fenced yd. Pacific Union, Patricia Scott 339-6460

120 CALVERT CT. Exquisite contemp in uniquely serene setting. **\$657,500**
In & out living/perfect for entertaining. GRUBB CO, Susanne Paul 339-0400

6959 NORFOLK DR. Claremont Hts. Newer constr. 4/3.5 including sep **\$649,000**
guest suite/office. Vw. Yd. Deck. Wells & Bennett, Wendy Callaghan 531-7000 X237

407 HUDSON ST. Rockridge. 3+bd/2ba. **New listing.** Fab new **\$625,000**
craftsman w/charm. Top of line finishes. Pacific Union, Donna DeBardi 339-6460

927 SUNNYHILLS RD. Elegant Tudor w/exceptional detail. 4bd/3ba. **\$619,000**
EIK level to yd. Attd' gar. A True Gem. GRUBB CO, Judy Cain 339-0400

6010 PINENEED DR. Dreamy Cottage. 1st open. Hand carved wd. **\$589,000**
Brick frpl, garden. Backyd. Extra lg garage. Coldwell Banker, Jack 339-1174

6625 AITKEN DR. Montclair. 3/2.5 w/remod kit. Lg mstr suite w/frpl. **\$569,000**
Private decks. Close to Village! Prudential CA, Kurt Meyer 268-8123

6068 MARGARITA. Claremont Pines. Fab location. Bright trad'l with **\$550,000**
bay vws. Family rm. Secluded rear yd. Coldwell Banker, Adrienne Broche 339-1174

8 KESWICK CT. Sophisticated yet comfortable. Frpl in 1st 4th bdrm **\$549,000**
or office w/1/2 ba entry m. Open LR, DR, kitchen. GRUBB, Debra Dryden 339-0400

6606 COLTON BL. Montclair. 3bd/2ba w/bay, bridges, & cities views! **\$549,000**
Art Deco 1939. LaSalle Properties, Kate Castle 339-8900

1831 MANZANITA DR. Contemporary w/3-bridge w/1 4/2+ w/vaulted **\$519,000**
ceilings, den, au pair suite, patio, decks, att'd gar. GRUBB CO, Judy Cain 339-0400

6359 LONGCROFT DR. Montclair. 3+2/5 sophisticated contemporary. **\$499,000**
Remodeled w/style! Stunning kit. **New listing!** Pacific Union, Dick Cohen 339-6460

5198 PINECREST DR. Skyline/Oak Knoll. Exceptional 4bd/3ba w/two **\$499,000**
family rms, solarium, spa, RV parking & more! Prudential Landmark, Lucy 982-0211

6525 CHELTON. Piedmont Pines. 4/3 contemp w/updtd bath. **\$495,000**
nw paint & roof. Storage. Alarm & Sprinkler. Prudential CA, Gene Boomer 869-4202

5678 OCEAN VIEW DR. 3bd/1+ba. **NEW LISTING. 1st OPEN.** **\$489,000**
Wonderful Rockridge Traditional. Lawton Associates 547-5970 1-5

12555 BROOKPARK RD. Oakland Hills. 4bd/2+ba Colonial on 1/3 ac. **\$469,000**
FR, updt kit, gardens. **NEW LISTING.** Pacific Union, Georgia Connell 339-6460

6332 BROADWAY TER. Upper Rockridge. 3bd/2ba w/loads of **\$450,000**
potential. SF Bay View! LaSalle Properties, Angela Lawson 339-8900

13781 CAMPUS DR. All level decorator perfect. Landscapd. Updt kit. **\$449,000**
Lg family rm, elegant mstr, 3-car garage. GRUBB CO, Judy Rankanman 339-0400

29 STARVIEW AVE. 3/2.5 contemp twnm w/sweeping bay views. **\$439,000**
Patio, decks, skylites, mstr retreat. GRUBB CO, Sherry Benninger 339-0400

6015 HILLEGASS. Rockridge Craftsman. 4+2 w/orignal wood detail. **\$435,000**
Sunporch. Lg yd. Nr shopping. Templeton Co, Ron Egberman 652-2133 X127 2-4

568 JEAN ST. Wonderful Brown Shingle Craftsman. 3bd/1ba. Great **\$429,000**
location. Wonderful garden. Templeton Co, Marlene Leverette 652-2133 X121

880 CREED RD. Crocker Highlands. **Just listed.** 3/2 w/country kitchen **\$425,000**
Upgrades. Garden. Charm. Lg lot. Prudential CA, Dolores Thom 763-1710 2-5

1142 TRESTLE GLEN DR. 4bd/2ba English Tudor/Crocker Highlands. **\$425,000**
Formal LR & DR. Hdws, frpl, grt yd. Charm! **First Open!**
Wells & Bennett, Patsy Buhler 531-7000 X238

5767 MENDOCINO. Rockridge. 3bd/1ba. Light-filled prairie style. **\$409,000**
Large yd. Move in condition. Prudential CA, Glass/Sabine Team 644-5495

438 ELYSIAN FIELDS DR. Sequoyah. 4/3.5 sprawling ranch. MB suite **\$395,000**
opens to deck w/hot tub. Backs to golf course. Richardson RE, Georgia 569-3499

1833 WOODHAVEN DR. Montclair. 5+bd/2 1/2 ba. Upslope center in **\$389,000**
woodsy setting. Hdwd frs. Vaulted ceilings. Richardson RE, Georgia 569-3499

5578 HARBOR DR. Upr Rockridge. 3/1 updt 20's bungalow w/ **\$389,000**
detail! **New listing.** Lg park-like yd. Pacific Union, Teri Carlisle 339-6460

3005 HOLYROOD DR. Montclair. 3+2/2 Brown Shingle in pvt wooded **\$375,000**
setting. 4th bd/office/rec rm. Filtered bay vw. Wells & Bennett, D. Dunning 482-2256

5920 HARBOR DR. Upper Rockridge home in Tahoe-like setting! **\$375,000**
3bd/2ba. Montclair Better Homes 339-8400

1160 POWELL ST. Beaut. hm with 2 in-laws! 3bd/2ba on Emeryville **\$374,000**
border. Walk to shops. 8 min to SF! Prudential CA, Logene Butler 526-5143 2-4

5741 SCARBOROUGH DR. Piedmont Pines. Bay View. 4bd/3ba. Two **\$370,000**
frpls, family rm, au pair setting. Coldwell Banker, Dell Orr 339-1174

2749-2751 26th AVE. 3bd/1 1/2 ba. Large updated home plus **\$349,000**
income. (Three Units) Prudential CA, Howard Converse 869-4221

6452 SHELTERWOOD. Stylish 4bd/2ba contemp. Enjoy the peace **\$349,000**
and serenity & ez access to Montclair Village. GRUBB CO, Shella Gallagher 339-0400

3820 BUTTERS DR. Montclair Hills. Joaquin Miller. Charming 2bd, **\$339,000**
1ba cottage on huge lot. LaSalle Properties, Doris Taboloff 339-8900

6639 BANNING DR. Montclair. 3bd/2+ba contemp. **New listing.** **\$329,000**
Remod throughout. 2 frpls, hdwd floors. Pacific Union, Chuck Corwin 339-6460

2335 MASTLANDS DR. Montclair. totally refurbished. 4bd/2ba. **\$329,000**
Coldwell Banker, Rita Zwerdling 486-1495 2-4

822 ALMA PL. Crocker Highlands. **Just listed.** 3/2 w/Old World Charm **\$329,000**
& more! Sunkin LR w/adj. den. View. Prudential CA, Dolores Thom 763-1710

4360 TERRABELLA WAY. Redwood Hts. 3bd/2.5ba contemp w/level **\$324,900**
yd. All appliances. 1594 sf. 2-car garage. Prudential CA, Mark Ross 869-4256

4109 COOLIDGE. Lincoln Heights. 3/2.5 charming trad'l. 1st open. **\$323,500**
Fam rm, updt kit. Patio. Some vw. Special. Coldwell Banker, Ruby/Karen 339-1174

7255 SARONI DR. Montclair. Serene setting. 4bd/2.5b contemporary. **\$319,000**
Hdws, family rm, 2 frpls, 2 decks. Bayridge Realty, Steven Zager 524-3333 X301

6006 COLTON. Montclair. 3bd/2ba. **New listing.** Dramatic LR. Hdwd **\$319,000**
floors, canyon vws. Great value! Pacific Union, Adriana Giacomelli 339-6460

4627 DOLORES. Glenview. 3bd/1.5ba Craftsman. Updated. **\$319,000**
Deck & level yard. LaSalle Properties, Vickie Chan Case 339-8900

46 TURTLE CREEK. One level living in 3bd/2ba twnm. Lovingly **\$305,000**
maintained. Move in condition. Rose garden. GRUBB CO, Mavis Delacroix 339-0400

1000 GLENDORA. Charming Glenview Gem! 2bd/1ba. Non-conforming **\$295,000**
studio apt. down. Grt location/condition! Prudential CA, Jim Resor 658-3476

6623 SARONI DR. Charm! 40's trad'l on extra lg sunny lot w/bay vw. **\$295,000**
2/1 w/frpl, hdwd floors, garage. GRUBB CO, Katherine Cooper 339-0400

4120 MANILA AVE. Temescal. Loads of charm! 2+1/1 Craftsman **\$289,500**
bungalow. 1450 sf. Basement. Prudential CA, Lisa Friedman 834-2010 2-5

427 COOLIDGE AVE. Upper Laurel. Sunny 2+1/1 Med. **New listing.** **\$269,000**
Level gardens. FDR, frpl, garage. Pacific Union, Sandi Klemmer 339-6460

10352 ROYAL OAK DR. Sequoyah Highlands. 3bd/2ba. Move in! **\$260,000**
Great neighborhood. EZ commute. Prudential CA, Aleso Gourhan 428-0900

537 53RD ST. Temescal. 3bd/2ba. Immaculate charmer. **\$253,500**
Prudential CA 339-9290, CB Rose 869-4253

627 63RD ST. No Oakland. 2/1. 1907 Craftsman farmhouse w/period **\$249,000**
detailing. Lg rooms. Rose garden. Prudential CA, Di Allen-Thompson 845-0200

2527 CARMEL ST. Lincoln Heights. **First Open.** Elegant 2bd/1ba **\$239,000**
bungalow in mint condition! Sunny rooms. EIK, FDR, frpl, tiled entry. Special garden.
Montclair Better Homes 339-8400

4020 LAUREL AVE. gorgeous 3bd/1.5ba Med w/charm! **Just listed!** **\$235,000**
Fab backyd. Remod kit. Hdws. Nds w/sold "as is" Wells & Bennett 531-7000 X239

923 60TH ST. Oak/Berk/Emeryville border. Lg 4/1+ Queen Anne. Many **\$229,000**
upgrades/paint/electric/plumbing. Lg yd. Prudential CA, Cindy Boze 898-9442

3746 38TH AVE. Laurel district. 3bd/1.5ba on 1 level. Lg kitchen. 2-car **\$229,000**
garage. Fruit trees. Nr bus lines. Prudential CA, Lucia Corvino 869-2775

4088 PATTERSON AVE. Laurel. Wonderful 2/2 split level w/bonus rm, **\$225,000**
garden, some bay view. **New listing.** Pacific Union, Lee Jacobson 339-6460

4192 FRUITVALE AVE. Oakmore. 3bd/1ba on lovely level lot. **\$215,000**
Great potential. Prudential CA, Bill Boze 869-4216

3870 MAGEE. Upper Laurel. 2/1 w/exquisite craftsman details. Frpl. **\$199,000**
FDR, hdws, EIK, deck, lg yd. Prudential CA, Rita Harrington 428-0900 1-4-30

4042 MAGEE. Conly 2bdrm/1bath bungalow. Remodeled kit & bath. **\$195,000**
Hdwd floors. Serene garden. Ascend Residential, Owner/Agent 628-0777 1-4

3719 LINCOLN. 2bdrm Laurel/Diamond bungalow. Fresh & Bright! **\$189,000**
Wd flrs, lg EIK, nw roof, deck, bsmt. Pest done. Coldwell Banker, Lani Dy 339-1174

2915 MADERA AVE. Maxwell Park. Great Bungalow! 2bd/1ba. **\$189,000**
Views. Move in! Prudential CA, Gene Boomer 869-4239

3064-3066 CURRAN. Nr Fruitvale. 2 units. 2/1 each. Sunny & bright. **\$179,000**
Hdwd flrs, 2 carports, nice yd. Citadel Prop., Michael Mak 415-731-7231 1:30-4:30

2004 50TH AVE. Melrose. 2bd/1ba w/updated kitchen. Lg bds & ba. **\$170,000**
Grt wood trim. Family rm. 2-car garage. Prudential CA, Brandy Turner 834-2010

4156 CULVER ST. Laurel. Charming Spanish Med. 2bd/1ba w/hdwd **\$169,000**
floors, bright nk, patio, garage. **New listing.** Pacific Union, Lee Jacobson 339-6460

3825 HIGH ST #203. Lower Redwood Hts. Villa Del Lago. 2bd/2ba **\$159,000**
Mediterranean condo. LaSalle Properties, Gregory Taboloff 339-8900

1268 E. 34TH ST. Sunny & Bright. 2+bd/1ba perfect for 1st time **\$153,000**
buyers. Convenient location. Montclair Better Homes 339-4000

6600 SUNNYMERE. Great 2bd/1ba bungalow on large lot. Det'd gar. **\$149,000**
New paint in & out. Prudential CA Realty 834-2010

10 MURDOCK CT. Millmont. 3bd/1ba. Cul-de-sac. Updt'd throughout. **\$133,000**
Prudential CA Realty, Darrin Tinsley 834-2010

8925 SENECA. Cute 1bd cottage on large wooded lot. Cul-de-sac. **\$129,000**
Bay View! Red Oak Realty, Warwick May 527-3387 X408 1-4

ALAMEDA OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

1043 ROSEWOOD. Alameda's Finest. Southshore 4bd/2.5ba bld by **\$449,000**
Ponderosa. Flexible floor plan. 3-car gar. Coldwell Banker, Kevin McMullen 339-1174

3014 SAN JOSE. Craftsman Charm! East End bungalow w/stunning **\$299,000**
orig.detail. 2bd/1ba. Blend of old & new. Coldwell Banker, Kevin McMullen 339-1174

ALBANY OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

1221 BRIGHTON AVE #3. 2bdrm/2bath condo. Convenient loc. **\$167,000**
Coldwell Banker, Henry Chang 486-1495

BERKELEY OPEN SUNDAY

51 VICENTE RD. Elegant 4bd/3+ba contemp in Claremont Hills. **\$999,000**
Secluded patio/garden. Pool. Prudential CA, Julie Lehman 898-9407 2-5

2901 BUENA VISTA WAY. Refined sophisticated 40's contemp w/vws **\$835,000**
on 1/3 ac. 3/3. Cook's kit. Office/FR. Templeton Co, Gini Eick 652-2133 X133 2-4

2823 BENVENUE. 7bd/3ba including separate 2bdrm unit with lg **\$825,000**
private yd in spectacular neighborhood. Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X408 2-5

2738 & 2740 PARKER. Elmwood. 2 houses. Must be sold together. **\$700,000**
and **\$425K.** 9+1/3. Gd Investment. Prudential CA, Ana & Pascal 273-9332 2-4

843 MENOCINO AVE. Fab contemp. On most sought-after street! **\$685,000**
4bd incl. 2 mstrs. 2 studies, den, FDR, garden, decks, & more! SF Bay Views.
Templeton Co, Susie Schevill 652-2133 X144 2-4-30

1184 STERLING AVE. Berkeley Hills. Magical Restoration! 3bd/2ba. **\$599,000**
Views. Artist studio. Prudential CA, David Otero 869-4239 2-4-30

774 SANTA BARBARA RD. 3bd/2.5ba Tudor Gutterston. Built 1928. **\$588,000**
1st time on mkt in 33 yrs. Move in! Prudential CA, Nancy Taussig 849-5316 2-5

1256 MONTEREY. 3bdrm/3bath. Move in condition. On a huge **\$585,000**
park-like lot. Berkeley Hills Realty, Barbara Conheim 524-9888 X28 2-4

3040 FULTON ST. Brown shingle duplex + 2 units **\$585,000**
Coldwell Banker, Linda Gerson 486-1495 2-4

561 WOODMONT. 4bdrm/3bath contemporary **\$550,000**
Coldwell Banker, Mamood Mokhtar 486-1495 2-5

684 HILLDALE. Beautiful vws from level-in 4+bd/2ba w/separate **\$549,000**
office. **New listing!** Templeton Co, Linda Wolan 652-2133 X123 2-5

1 VICENTE. Claremont. 3bd/2ba. Oriental flair. Hdwd floors. FR w/ **\$499,000**
2nd frpl. Potential! Montclair Better Homes 339-8400 2-4-30

543 VINCENTE. 1000 Oaks. Fab 4/2 Normandy! Vaulted ceilings.EIK. **\$499,000**
Pvt yd. In-law potential. Marvin Gardens, Richard Morrison 527-2700 X32 2-4-30

1047 CRESTON RD. Spacious 3bd/2ba w/garden **\$495,000**
Coldwell Banker, Diane Verducci 486-1495 2-4-30

1066 KEITH AVE/Eucild. **New Listing!** Big old fine 3+bd/3+ba **\$485,000**
including in-law. Set in countryside meadow w/sun & trees. As Is.
Tarpoff & Talbert 653-2050 2-4

3042 COLLEGE AVE. Downtown Elmwood. Big & Beautiful! Fenced yd. **\$449,000**
10 interesting rms, 3 baths. Thornwall Properties, Carole Reis 848-1950 X239 2-5

2811 PIEDMONT. Elmwood. 2+1/1 & 1/1 in-law. Craftsman with **\$449,000**
options. Lovely yd. Walk College Ave shps. Prudential CA, 540-8743/528-1500 2-5

1187 KEITH. Delightful 2bd cottage in great part of North Berkeley. **\$340,000**
FIRST OPEN! Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X408 2-5

2305 DERBY ST. So. Berkeley. 2/1 darling bungalow on tree-lined st. **\$315,000**
Renovated det'd gar. Great location! Prudential CA, Lisa Friedman 834-2010 2-5

1805 MCGEE. 3/1. Victorian w/flexible spaces & historic 2nd unit. Great **\$310,000**
location nr Ohlone Park. Thornwall Properties, Kathryn Hill 8

Joint Oakland/Emeryville subsidized housing development breaks ground Thursday

Community groups join forces to help first-time home buyers move in

OAKLAND/EMERYVILLE — A community improvement gets under way June 24 as part of the San Pablo Avenue Revitalization project.

Oakland Community Housing, Inc. (OCHI) and Community Development Corporation of Oakland (CDCO) break ground on their newest project, Gateway Commons, a 17-unit subsidized housing development. Slated for completion in the summer of 2000, Gateway Commons offers an opportunity for home ownership to first-time homebuyers of low-to-moderate income.

Beginning at noon on June 24, officials from the cities of Oakland and Emeryville, as well as members of participating organizations, will gather at the site to celebrate the groundbreaking, marking the beginning of construction of the development. Thursday's groundbreaking culminates more than five years of planning and anticipation by community advocacy groups.

Both OCHI and CDCO, joint-venture partners in the project, are committed to providing affordable housing to low and moderate income

first-time buyers in the East Bay. These two non-profit organizations, in conjunction with the cities of Oakland and Emeryville, are making this development possible.

The Home Buyer Assistance Center (HBAC), a non-profit organization, has been contracted to educate and provide workshops to assist first-time home buyers to understand the benefits and responsibilities of owning a home.

Priced from \$135,000 to \$195,000, with units ranging from 1,350 to 1,700 square feet, Gateway Commons will extend along San Pablo Avenue between 48th and 53rd Streets at the Oakland and Emeryville border. All units in this gated community are three stories and boast a garage and private yard or patio. The complex includes seven townhomes and 10 live/work lofts.

According to Sara Garabedian of Red Oak Realty, the Berkeley-based real estate agent charged with marketing the project, "There are few, if any subsidized housing developments available to homebuyers of moderate income in the East Bay, which makes Gateway Commons a rare opportunity."

Garabedian notes that current home prices in the East Bay area av-



GATEWAY COMMONS, a 17-unit subsidized housing development, breaks ground Thursday, June 24.

erage between \$275,000 and \$350,000 and are out of reach of most people, especially those buying their first home. "If you earn below a certain level, it's almost impossible to purchase a home here and set

down roots," she said. "This development will make that possible for 17 families representing the diversity of our community, and I am excited to be a part of it."

Serving the East Bay since 1976,

Berkeley-based Red Oak Realty has consistently been rated one of the Bay Area's Top 25 Real Estate offices. With more than 40 agents and an affiliation with the Mortgage Network, Red Oak Realty is an inde-

pendently-owned office.

For more information about Gateway Commons or any other real estate matter, contact Sara Garabedian, Red Oak Realty, 510-527-3387 x 105.

Safes

FROM PAGE C8

Special protection is suggested for storing valuable computer software disks, videotapes and photographic negatives. These types of items are much more sensitive to heat, and a safe with an inner liner is used to keep interior temperatures below 125 degrees, which is the point where electronic damage can occur.

location, location, location

Where's the best place to put a safe? "It's hard to pick an area in a house and say, 'Fires don't usually occur there,'" says lock and key specialist Jim Williams. "You're better off keeping it in a closet where it's easy to get to."

Although fire safes have locks, they're generally not secure enough to prevent theft. "A thief can usually get a common fire safe open with a crowbar," says Salles.

More expensive burglary safes can resist a bad guy's blowtorch for more than an hour, and if your safe has a "TX" rating from Underwriter's Laboratories, that means it will stay intact even after a dynamite blast.

Where to hide a burglary safe is

good question. "The obvious place is in the master bedroom," says Salles. "That's why many people choose to hide them in the kitchen or a spare bedroom."

If your needs are to conceal jewelry and other valuables, you might choose to simply rent a safe deposit box at the bank. However, these don't offer perfect security. There have been cases in which bank robbers have taken safe deposit boxes.

The FDIC only covers money on deposit, so if you don't have your own insurance on your valuables and they're taken from a safe deposit box, you have no protection.

While a burglary safe may not

protect its contents from fire on its own, it can receive a fire rating if it's properly installed inside a concrete wall. Fire safes are often hid in ar-

eas such as a closet or a garage where they can be easily concealed.

Floor safes, which are usually cylindrical, are generally installed in a home's concrete foundation but they can also be placed in older homes with raised foundations. A concrete form is generally built from the ground up to the floor level, then the safe is placed inside. Most also come with a cover which fits over the opening and makes it flush with the floor surface.

When storing items in a floor safe, the experts recommend putting them in plastic containers or bags. In case of fire, water used to fight it could soak through and damage the contents.

Although not as popular, the wall safe is a choice for those who live in condominiums where it's not possible to install a floor safe. Think of a wall safe as a high-security medicine cabinet, since that's how it basically fits into the wall. It's set between the studs and bolted to them from the inside, making it nearly impossible to remove one whole from the wall. Their height and width make up for the lack of depth, and it's possible to fit folders or large envelopes in a wall safe that wouldn't fit easily in a floor safe.

The old-fashioned upright safe is the choice for those with lots of items to store because of the large space they provide. These are also the most expensive safes because of their size. They're not easy to move up and down stairs, and it takes a bit of engineering to find a good space for them.

Get a lock on security

The most critical part of a safe's security is its lock. The mechanical combination lock is still available on many models. "It's truly time-tested, and a good-quality combination lock is an effective deterrent," says Salles.

However, digital locks on higher-end burglary safes are becoming the standard. "The better digital locks have some very attractive features," says Williams. "They're very simple to use. You simply press in your code number to open it and when you shut it the door locks. On combination locks, you need to turn the dial

at least four times to scramble the combination after it's closed, and many safe owners forget that."

Some digital locks can also be connected to a home's alarm system, and they can reveal the last time the safe was opened. Also, owners can change the lock combinations at will

without the assistance of a locksmith.

Once you've selected a safe for your needs, it's probably a good idea to start thinking about overall home security. "What good is it to get a great safe and have a cheap lock on the front door?" says Edwards.

DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS

Are you a low to moderate income, first-time homebuyer interested in purchasing a home in Emeryville? CONTACT The Emeryville Redevelopment Agency's First Time Home Buyer's Program (510) 596-4316

CASTLE ROCK REALTY



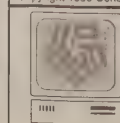
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OF HOMES & APARTMENTS 528-9292

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BAY AREA HOME mortgage RATES

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	30-YEAR FIXED RATE+POINTS(APR)	15-YEAR FIXED RATE+POINTS(APR)	30-YEAR JUMBO RATE+POINTS(APR)	15-YEAR JUMBO RATE+POINTS(APR)	ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS
A Simple Mortgage 925-930-0149	7.625+0(7.78) 7.375+1(7.6)	7.5+0(7.65) 7.25+1(7.5)	7.875+0(7.93) 7.625+1(7.85)	7.625+0(7.73) 7.375+1(7.6)	Easy—simple. Never fill out a form. Courteous, professional. (Company owner 10 years). Will come to your home or business. No application fee.
Aapex Mortgage 800-811-0885	7.5+0+0 7.25+1+0 6.875+2.75+0	7.125+0+0 6.875+1+0 6.375+2.75+0	7.75+0+0 7.5+1+0 7.25+2+0	7.375+0+0 7.125+1+0 6.875+2+0	VA loan specialist. Commercial loans. Call for details.
Aston Financial Group 925-934-5323	7.5+0(7.71) 7.375+5(7.62) 7.25+1.25(7.55)	7.375+0(7.62) 7.25+5(7.68) 7+1.5(7.31)	7.75+0(7.99) 7.625+5(7.89) 7.25+2(7.64)	7.625+0(7.89) 7.5+0(7.77) 7.25+1(7.38)	Jumbo 30/3 6.25+0. Call about our no appraisal refinances!
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Diablo Funding Group 1-888-4-MY-LOAN	7.25+0+0 7.125+0+25 6.875+0+1.5	6.875+0+0 6.75+0+5 6.625+0+1	7.375+0+0 7.25+0+75 7.125+0+1.375	7.25+0+0 7+0+75 6.75+0+1.5	FHA, VA, 103% no down purchase loans, divorce loans—get up to \$10,400 closing cost assistance. Debt consolidation loans. Call today.
Discovery Mortgage Co. 800-303-6800	7+2.125 7.25+875 7.5+0	6.625+2 6.875+1 7.25+0	7.25+2 7.5+1 7.75+0	6.875+2 7.375+125 7.625+0	VA—FHA—CHFA—PERS—CAL VET After 5pm and on weekends call 510-539-7245. Se habla Español. Call 925-688-6128.
ExpressLoan.com 800-635-6222 CA DRE Lic#01227543	6.875+2.5(7.17) 7.125+1.25(7.29) 7.375+0(7.41)	6.75+1.5(7.06) 7+5(7.14) 7.125+0(7.19)	7.25+2(7.47) 7.5+1.25(7.65) 7.75+0(7.77)	7+1.25(7.32) 7.25+75(7.4) 7.5+0(7.53)	Call now. Fast, easy, convenient. Apply by phone or on the web. Low rates, friendly service, and professional licensed loan counselors. 5/1 ARM 6.625+1(7.46).
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J&J Mortgage Corporation 925-254-1271	7.5+1+4	7.125+1+4	7.75+1+4	7.375+1+4	FHA/VA specialists. Se habla Español. Bankers since 1949. FHA ARM 5.5+1+4.5
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Rounder Financial 800-867-9783	7.125+0(7.23)	6.75+0(6.75)	7.375+0(7.4)	7.125+0(7.17)	Open 7 days a week. Se habla Español. Equity 2nds to 125%. Debt consolidation.
Union Trust Mortgages Services, Inc. 800-770-UTMS	7.375+0+1 7.75+0+0	7.25+0+1 7.5+0+0	7.625+0+1 7.875+0+1	7.625+0+1 7.375+0+1	Check our website: www.utms.com Bay Area lender! Call us first!
U.S. Mortgage Center 1-888-387-8762	7.25+0(7.35)	7+0(7.21)	7.625+0(7.65)	7.375+0(7.42)	Open Saturday and Sunday. FHA/VA, conventional. Debt consolidation. First-time buyers special.

Information is current as of June 22, 1999. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$25,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$240,000; jumbo loans are in excess of \$240,000. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homebuyers to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. MI—mortgage insurance. NA—not available. Lenders, to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 1999 Consumer News Systems



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Berkeley Home for Sale \$429,000

New listing! Tudor style home in North Berkeley. Two bedroom, one bath upstairs, downstairs including 3 rooms & 1 bath. View of S.F. off living room.

Lots of potential.
Call Susie Dews
650-637-7308

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FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK



BARBARA TAPP/PRUDENTIAL

774 SANTA BARBARA RD., BERKELEY offers peace and tranquility, yet is near Solano Avenue shops and restaurants, with easy access to the freeway and public transportation.

Thank you for reading Hills Newspapers — please recycle this paper after you've read it

The restored John Galen Howard fountain in the center of Marin Circle greets visitors to the north Berkeley Hills and 774 Santa Barbara Rd.

This distinctive Tudor-style home, designed by noted San Francisco and Berkeley architect Henry Higby Gutterson, was built in 1928 and has had only three owners.

It was first occupied by Miss Marianne Moore, a physician, who arranged with Henry Gutterson for the original house. The second owner was Mrs. Sally Simms.

The Piniella family has lived in this home for 33 years. This family added the bi-level deck and den/office, both designed by Berkeley architect Helen Vilett.

Gutterson, a student of Bernard Maybeck, studied at the University of California and l'Ecole des Beaux Arts. The blending of Prairie, Craftsman and Mediterranean elements characterized Gutterson's personal style, according to one architectural historian.

Among Gutterson's designs are

the "McDuffie House" at 3016 Avalon Ave. and what was once his own residence at 2922 Garber St. in Berkeley.

The Gutterson design at Santa Barbara combines harmony and balance with the charm and warmth of stucco and wood accents. Both the house and garden blend together gently. New owners may enjoy the splendid Bay and Golden Gate bridge views. As a bonus, the original architects' plans come with the house.

Let's take a tour:

You enter the home through an arched doorway into a charming tiled entryway. French doors lead to the deck. From the entryway you enter a spacious living room with pocket door, elegant wood accents and solid oak floors.

French doors opening from the living room lead to an integrated entertaining space of terrace, lawn and garden. A formal dining room, kitchen with eating area, study/den and powder room complete this level.

Upstairs you'll find three bedrooms with newly refurbished wood floors and a large bathroom. Plans are available to view the room to the spacious master bedroom. Two of the bedrooms open to a balcony with views of the Bay.

The lower level, reached by a set of stairs, contains a family room and full bath which were added by the current owner. Step out onto a back yard on this level.

The north hills neighborhood where this house sits was one of the last in Berkeley to be developed.

To view this home or for more information, please call Nancy Plattford at the Claremont office or at her dental California Realty. Nancy's number is 510-845-0211.

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484 GRAVATT DRIVE.....\$879,000
Incredible new contemporary with big Bay views! Superb quality, clean lines. 4 Bedrooms, including sexy master suite, 2.5 bath, home office, kitchen, family room combo. Cool sophistication. Unique and Fabulous!
Carol Robbiano ext. 238

6959 NORFOLK ROAD.....\$649,000
Newer construction in Claremont Heights, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths including separate guest suite or home office. So. Bay view, yard and deck. Terrific kitchen, sunny and spacious.
Wendy Callaghan ext. 237

1142 TRESTLE GLEN RD.....\$415,000
1ST OPEN! English Tudor, 4/2 master retreat, formal living room & formal dining room. Refinished hardwood flrs, new interior/exterior paint. Fireplace in living room, bay window, original charm. Great yard, room for expansion. Patsy Buhler ext. 238

3005 HOLYROOD DRIVE.....\$375,000
REDUCED! Sale fell thru - 3+BD, 2BA architecturally unique Piedmont Pines brown shingle contemporary in a private, wooded setting. High, wood-beamed ceilings remodeled kitchen, Luan mahogany cabinets, 2 huge addit. rooms for 4th BD, office or recreation. Filled Bay view. Don Dunning 482-2256

4020 LAUREL AVENUE.....\$235,000
JUST LISTED! Gorgeous 3BD, 1.5BA Mediterranean with lots of charm & fabulous backyard. Lovely, remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors. Needs work, sold "As-Is." Don Dunning ext.239

BY APPOINTMENT

PENDING
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS.....\$998,000
New Mediterranean! Great design and flow. Stunning views. Top end finishes 4+bedrooms, 3.5 baths, knockout kitchen and master suite. Don't miss this one. Mary Neuberger 530-4148

TOTAL PRIVACY IN ORINDA.....\$700,000
Be surrounded by your own 4.3 acre. Two separate adjoining lots. Developed lot with unique glass house plus 2 guesthouses. Build on one lot - sell the other. Noll Davis ext. 263

5-PLEX NEAR PIEDMONT AVE.....\$385,000
3 Studios, 2-BD. Three story Victorian era building. Upgraded in 1993. Rents below market. SF bay view. Top locale.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

FABULOUS DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITY.....\$300,000
Projected for 30 unit complex, large parcel near downtown Oakland. Call for details.
Stan Hammond ext. 346

HOUSE PLUS DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL.....\$169,000
Secluded 2+BD bungalow on 10,000 sq. ft. lot. Can be package with .41 acres of developable land. Call for details.
Stan Hammond ext. 346

7-YEAR OLD TOWNHOME.....\$165,000
2-Story end unit. 2BD with 2.5BA. Living room with fireplace, dining room, laundry in unit. Large closet space, basement, private gated complex. Approximately 1200 sq. ft.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

LAND

6060 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD.....\$449,000
Nearly 1 acre & close as possible to level. Bay & Contra Costa views. May be possible to divide. Area of million dollar homes.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

MARVELOUS MONTCLAIR LOT.....\$215,000
Level in downslope, 10,000+ sq. ft. Soil report available. Neighboring homes between \$800K - \$900K. Carol Robbiano ext. 292

SOBRANTE ROAD, MONTCLAIR DISTRICT.....\$55,000
Large upslope lot. Utilities accessible. Owner will entertain offer. Area of new construction. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

OAKLAND HILLS.....\$95,000
Nearly 1 acre w/ approved building plans, no permit issued. Danville type setting. Area of expensive custom homes.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

WESTOVER LOT.....\$64,000
Design review approved plans. Spacious proposed home. Take over and build your dream home. Great locale.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

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*** Open Sunday! New Mediterranean.....\$1,495,000**
5BD/4BA 10055 Broadway Terrace, views of Bay, SF, & three bridges. Crafted by Bay Area's premium builder.
Mary Ruth Armstrong 510-654-9507

*** New Construction.....\$985,000**
Open Sunday! 6620 Estates Dr., 3+BD/3+BA, gourmet kitchen, beautiful views. A Must See!
Kurt Meyer 510-268-8123

Piedmont Traditional Reduced - \$799,000
No need to cross any streets to all schools from gracious 4BD/3.5BA with fam. rm. home.
Caroline Peters 510-428-0900

*** Dream House.....\$799,000**
Glorious new construction high in the Oakland Hills. 4BD/3.5BA, a view!
Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm
Candice Economides 510-528-9284
510-845-0200

*** Berkeley Hills.....\$599,000**
Open Sunday! 3BD/2BA, 1184 Sterling Ave. Magical restoration, artist studio, views!
David Otero 510-869-4239

*** Private Setting.....\$569,000**
Open Sunday! 6625 Aitken Drive, 3BD/2.5BA beautiful remodeled kitchen, master suite w/ fireplace.
Kurt Meyer 510-268-8123

England On China Hill.....\$387,000
5+BR, 2BA, craftsman details currently used as triplex.
Helen Chin 510-893-6319

*** Major Bay View!.....\$324,900**
Open Sunday! 4360 Terrabella Way, 3BD/2.5BA level yard. All appliances stay, 2 car garage.
Mark Ross 510-869-4256

3 Unit 1910 Victorian.....\$299,000
Lovely Lake Merritt Victorian income property. Two 1BD down, one+1 & one+1 w/loft up. Magical garden.
Crawford Monemzadeh 510-845-0200

*** Charming Glenview Gem.....\$295,000**
Open Sunday! 1000 Glendora, 2BD/1BA up non-conforming studio down. Great location & condition.
Jim Resor 510-658-3476

Double Your Pleasure!.....\$289,000
Duplex-side by side. Two 1BD & One +1BD. Both units have hwdwd, frplcs, updated kitchen & baths. Walk to BART & 4th St.
Janet Kaplan 510-845-0200

*** Immaculate Chamer.....\$253,500**
Open Sunday! 537-53d. St. 3BD/2BA Bungalow w/ sunny back yard. Close to Bart, shopping & restaurants, income potential.
CB Rose 510-339-9290

*** Open Sunday! Oakmore.....\$215,000**
3BD/1BA 4192 Fruitvale Avenue, lovely level lot. Great potential. Needs TLC. Bill Boze 510-869-4216

*** Great Craftsman Interior.....\$199,000**
Open Sunday! 1-4-30, 3870 Magee in upper Laurel. 2BD/1BA hwdwd flrs, frpl, eat-in kit, lg yard w/ front trees.
Rita Harrington 510-428-0900

*** Maxwell Park.....\$189,000**
Open Sunday! 2BD/1BA Great bungalow. Move-in condition, views! 2915 Madera Avenue.
David Otero 510-869-4239

4 Plex in Oakland!.....\$170,000
Four 2BD/1BA units on one level. Gross annual rents \$280,000. 18 yr old building. Make Offer!
Jim Forquer 510-869-4263

Beautiful Live/Work!.....\$162,950
Dolan designed. Great window placement, open beam ceilings, skylights, loft, gated parking, green court.
Janessa Timon Smith/Jackie Wagner 510-524-2526

Great Home - Honest Price.....\$106,000
The search is over! 2BD/1BA home with pretty hwdwd floors, utility rm, upgrades in progress! Close to all.
Victor Wong 510-526-5143

EMERYVILLE

Emeryville for Lease Price Upon Request

Wonderful N. Bay & hill views to enchant! 2BD/2BA condo, EZ access to UCB. Prime Shopping. All amenities!! Logene Butler 510-524-2526

BERKELEY/ALBANY

Elmwood Craftsman.....\$449,000
Walk to College Ave. shopping/ dining. Lovely garden. Flr plan has options: 2+BD/1+BA & 1BD/1BA "in-law", or convert back to 3+BD/2+BA single family residence.
Julie Nachtwey 510-540-8743
Kim Habu 510-528-1500. 510-845-0211

Woodsy House.....\$399,000
Cute Craftsman-like 3 BD/2.5BA, 1800 sq. ft., master bedroom suite.
Candice 510-528-9284, 510-845-0200

Housing Near UC Berkeley.....\$390,000
5+BD/2BA, approx. 1600 sq. ft. great for student housing. Updated kitchen & baths. Small lot.
Fatima Ali 510-845-0211

*** Ballrooms, Rosebuds & BART.....\$249,000**
1907 Craftsman farm house with period detailing, large rooms, 2 BD/1 BA, rose garden. Great neighborhood, 2 minutes to Berkeley & BART. 627-63rd St., Open 2-4:30.
Di Allen Thompson 510-287-8904, 510-845-0200

Walk to UC & Elmwood Shops!.....\$240,000
Pretty, serene outlook! 2BD, fresh paint, move-in! Smaller, well-maintained bldg. Secure pkg.
Denise Milburn 510-869-4800
510-845-0211

WEST COUNTY

Pano Views! Kensington!.....\$1,250,000
Fab totally renovated 4BD/3.5BA home. Custom kit, stunning garden. Add'l lot also available.
Helene Barkin 510-279-8900
510-845-0211

*** Perfect Starter Home.....\$229,800**
Move-in condition. 806 Liberty St. Cerrito, Open 1-4. 2BD/1BA. Must See. Call
Carol Powell 510-724-9640, 510-527-9640

Quiet Cul-de-sac!.....\$121,500
2B + loft/ 2BA. High ceilings in LR. 2093 sq. ft., 2-car garage. Terrific & spa. 5 miles to Berkeley.
Lloyd Jung 510-526-9000

Great Beginnings!.....\$105,000
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Alky Vasdekis 510-524-2526

All-Star!.....\$89,000
Spaciousness & charm make this home sparkle! 3BD/1BA home with kitchen, garage, great yard, some hwdwd. Logene Butler 510-524-2526

Irresistible Charm!.....\$79,000
Picture yourself here: Sunny 2BD/1BA home - perfect for 1st time buyer, sm family. Adorable yard.
Logene Butler 510-524-2526

Superb Value!.....\$700,000
Well-maintained family home. 2BD/1BA. Large, private yard - excellent for summertime fun, gardening.
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LOTS FOR SALE

Kensington-Panoramic View Lot!.....\$367,000
Opportunity to build! Lg lot w/ w/ivl area. Not visible from st. Backing driveway. For appt. call
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510-845-0211

Opportunity!.....\$299,000
2 Buildable lots in North Berkeley Hills. Level building pads. Soon together.
Helene Barkin 510-279-8900
510-845-0211

Claremont Hills.....\$260,000
View lot in area of luxury homes. Hiller. Nancy Plattford 510-845-0211

Claremont Hills.....\$220,000
View lot with designer plans on site. Cross.
Nancy Plattford 510-845-0211

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The Auto Section

The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

June 24-25, 1999

Section D

New Models Subaru's Outback is quick on the draw [D2]

Auto Doctor Junior Damato knows what ails you (or your car, anyway) [D4]

Motor Mart Your community resource for local deals [D4]

Nissan whips up satisfying Xterra XE

No more parsley! That could have been Nissan's battle cry while cooking up their new compact sport utility vehicle, the Xterra. Meaning: let's get back to basics. Forget the frou-frou frills. Forget the garnish. Who fills up on garnish anyway? Just give 'em a solid, satisfying meat-and-potatoes 4x4.

Get off the Road

By Christopher Keane



Christopher Keane

"Nissan figured what the buyers craved was an honest, what-you-see-is-what-you-get sport utility vehicle..."

During the past couple of years, car manufacturers have stuffed the streets with fancy pseudo-SUVs. Sedan sport utes, station wagon sport utes, minivan sport utes, and obscenely obese, high-priced luxury sport utes. Nissan figured what the buyers craved was an honest and affordable what-you-see-is-what-you-get sport utility vehicle.

Nissan was right. And the new 2000 Nissan Xterra hits the spot.

Recently, I test drove Xterra through



NISSAN'S 2000 XTERRA XE 4X4.

the backroads of the Hollister off-road park in northern California. Xterra tackled the mud trails like a happy mule. An excellent 8.4-inches of ground clearance and plenty of wheel articulation kept

Xterra on route over rocks and through ditches. A fine 104-inch wheelbase smoothed the ruts. Low gearing on the five-speed manual transmission mated to the V6 engine allowed Xterra to crawl

up slippery slopes with ease.

On the crested hilltops, I got expansive views of the Pacific coastal valley — ex-

See XTERRA, Page D5

Drive, who said

By Denise McLuggage



Denise McLuggage

"A corporate cultural change happens from the top down. It is pervasive..."

Renegade Lincoln breaks from Ford

When a carmaker decides to change its image, it might try a zipplier ad campaign in hopes of attracting younger buyers. New slogans, new ad agency. But an image change, however intense, is more or less superficial. Image has to do with how others see us.

A corporate cultural change, on the other hand, happens from the top down. It is pervasive. It has to do with how a company sees itself, and ultimately, therefore, how it really is. It is the sort of deep change the Lincoln-Mercury Division of Ford Motor Company is undergoing.

The parent Ford boasts a growing gar-

See LINCOLN, Page D5

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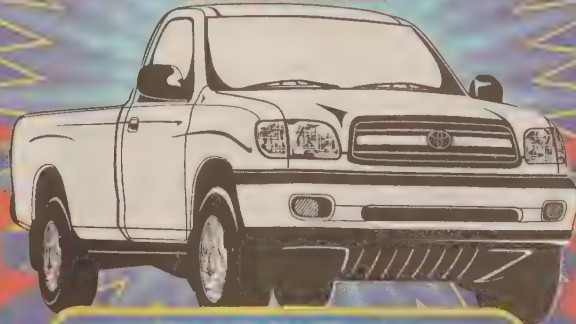
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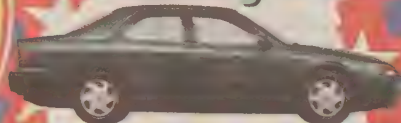
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Off-road durability focus of 2000 Subaru Outback

"Hybrid vehicle" is a new term recently coined to describe models that are a crossover between cars and trucks. Subaru's Outback may very well have been the first of such crossover vehicles that combine the size, comfort and handling of cars and the all-wheel drive capability of sport utility vehicles.

The Outback debuted in 1995 and introduced the sports utility wagon to U.S. car buyers. It offers the rugged, aggressive looks of an SUV with the size and performance of a passenger car. Recently, the third generation Outback was released to the marketplace as a 2000 model.

It features a package of enhancements

Down the Road

By Herb Shuldiner



Herb Shuldiner

"The beauty of the Subaru system is that it performs corrections without any need for the driver to intervene..."

that give the vehicle additional power, improved structural safety, and more comfort for the driver and passengers.

At the heart of the Outback is a full-time all-wheel drive system that weighs a mere 150 pounds. This includes a grapefruit-sized viscous coupling, propeller and drive shafts, and front and rear differentials. The viscous coupling contains a series of disks bathed in a silicon fluid. Every other disk is aligned with either the front or rear axles.

When any of the wheels starts to slip, the fluid in the viscous coupling instantly heats up and locks up the disks aligned with the axle on which a wheel

is slipping. The disks shear through the heated silicon fluid, causing pressure to rise to a point that actually stops the disk from rotating.

This builds up torque to the axle on which a wheel is slipping and helps to overcome slippage. For the 2000 model, Subaru engineers have added a limited slip differential in the rear that transfers torque from a slipping rear wheel to the non-slipping wheel on the same axle. In effect, this provides a dual system to prevent slipping of the rear wheels.

The beauty of the Subaru system is that it performs these corrections without any need for the driver to intervene.

This compares to AWD systems in many SUVs that require the driver to shift from two-wheel drive into four-wheel drive, or from high into low range.

Subaru has also improved the low and mid-range power of the 2000 Outback. Engineers have adapted the 2.5-liter single overhead cam engine that's used in Impreza and Forester for the Outback. The new engine in the Outback has an all-new intake manifold, alternator and a unique fuel injection system. While the new engine improves power output in lower gear ranges, it

See OUTBACK, Page D5

AUTO BRIEFS

Luxury with attitude

Pontiac's all-new 2000 Bonneville is a different kind of luxury sport sedan, meeting the specific demands of drivers with a new outlook on luxury. "The concept of luxury has evolved dramatically in the past decade, with an emphasis on active, driver-oriented features," says Mary Boland, Bonneville brand manager. Bonneville's most notable technology is the Integrated Chassis Control System, sensors which monitor steering and "yaw" (sudden swerving).

Saab recalls 9000s

Saab announces a voluntary recall of Saab 9000 cars from 1992 through 1994. The automaker says moisture can enter the control module and corrode internal printed circuit boards. This could potentially cause the diagnostic system to illuminate the SRS light. Saab says the recall affects about 26,000 vehicles, and that no accidents or injuries have been reported.

2000 BMW Z3 redesigned

BMW's popular two-seat sports car enters the 2000 model year with refinements inside and out. Newly contoured rear wheel arches and redesigned tail lights give the roadster a distinctive appearance. Dynamic Stability Control provides even greater active safety, while new alloy wheels enhance the classic roadster proportions.

SEMA names Sheffer to VP post

Carl E. Sheffer has been appointed vice president, original equipment manufacturer relations by SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association).

SEMA president Charles R. Blum said: "In establishing and maintaining relationships with various manufacturers, Sheffer's primary focus will be to address the exchange of technical information, mutual legislative and regulatory concerns, member product quality and sales related issues."

Sheffer began his automotive career at General Motors in 1972 and later became director of communications for GMC Truck Division in Michigan. He closed out his career at GM as Director of Regional Communications for Chevrolet Division in California with responsibility for all communications activities nationwide.

UAW, GM agree to Delphi bargaining unit

The United Auto Workers and General Motors have agreed to create a separate bargaining unit for 46,000 workers at Delphi Automotive Systems Corp.

Bloomberg News Services reported the two parties sized the agreement earlier this month.

GM's newly spun-off parts supplier promised to abide by the existing UAW-GM contract until a new agreement is negotiated this fall.

The union leader's prefer a single, multi-employer contract that covers both companies, while GM executives have said they hope the union will negotiate a separate agreement with Delphi this fall.

Compiled by Arnold Wechter

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Sonata makes U-turn with quality body, engine choices

'Hyundai Advantage' assurance package catches the eye as well

By Arnold and Marion Wechter

NORTH AMERICAN AUTO WRITERS
The best way to describe the Hyundai Sonata Sedan is to call it a lot of car for the money. It is by far the best effort by the Korean auto maker. It is a far cry from its early tries when price was its only attraction and quality left much to be desired. The Sonata looks and acts like a quality car from bumper-to-bumper... Before you roll your eyes and say, "oh yeah," it might pay you to look at the car's buyer assurance package.

The Sonata offers a new body, two new engines, three new transmissions, a new double-wishbone suspension. It also includes highly advanced safety technology, including standard side air bags and unique passenger presence detection system.

The Sonata's appearance the rounded aerodynamic styling that is popular at this time. It doesn't stand out in a crowd, but it won't embarrass you. We did like the distinctive front and rear styling. Marion found the white pearl paint job to be superior to other Hyundai products that we have reviewed.

We first drove the Sonata GLS over



HYUNDAI

SPECIFICATIONS

- Type: 4-door sedan
- Base price: \$17,799
- As tested: \$19,077
- Options on test car: leather package including 6-way power adjustable driver's seat (\$1,200); carpeted floor mats (\$78)
- Engine: SOHC V-6, transversely mounted, front drive
- Displacement: 2,493 cc
- Horsepower: 170 bhp @ 5000 rpm
- Torque: 166 ft/lbs @ 4000 rpm
- Transmission: 4-speed auto-

matic with overdrive and shift interlock, electronically-controlled with INVECS-II

- Steering: power-assisted rack-and-pinion
- Brakes: ventilated front discs, solid rear discs with ABS optional
- Wheelbase: 106.3 in.
- Overall length: 185.4 in.
- Width: 71.6 in.
- Height: 55.5 in.
- Track: NA
- Curb weight: 3,128 lbs.
- Fuel capacity: 17.2 gal.
- EPA rating 20 mpg city/28 mpg highway

called the Hyundai Advantage, it includes limited bumper-to-bumper coverage for five years or 60,000 miles. In addition, Sonata buyers receive 24-hour roadside assistance coverage at no extra charge for five years with no mileage limit. It includes emergency towing, lock-out service and limited coverage for trip-interruption expenses.

Original Sonata owners are provided with an industry-leading limited power train coverage — 10 years or 100,000 miles. Even if the car is sold, Hyundai backs the power train for five years or 60,000 miles. Corrosion coverage is provided for five years or 100,000 miles. There is no deductible on any of these coverages. It isn't often that we spend two paragraphs on a car's warranty. In this case, we feel it proves Hyundai's commitment to quality.

the back roads of Quebec Province. It was the six cylinder model equipped with all-new Delta V-6 engine. It is an all-aluminum 2.5-liter, DOHC unit developing 170 hp at 6000 rpm and 166 ft/lbs of torque at 4000 rpm.

It is a smooth unit though on steep hills it is forced to work hard. We both consider it up to the daily tasks of driving, but more spirited drivers might wish for additional horsepower and torque.

It's a relatively economical unit. According to the EPA it averages 20 mpg city and 28 mpg highway. Our test GLC averaged 23.8 mpg in combined city and highway driving.

If you live in areas of the midwest where the highways are flat for miles, the base 4-cylinder should prove adequate. It develops 149 hp at 5500 rpm and 156 ft/lbs of torque at 3000 rpm.

Without ever being behind the wheel of a base Sonata we're suspi-

HYUNDAI'S SONATA is more or less economical and doesn't cost all that much. This reviewer calls it a bargain.

cious that the engine would be a happy choice in mountainous areas.

GLS buyers receive an electronically controlled four-speed automatic transmission that is optional on the base model. It features a lock-up torque converter and driver-selected overdrive.

It also offers Hyundai's version of "fuzzy logic" technology that enables the transmission to adapt to driver preferences, rather than always shift at the same point under a given set of conditions.

The base Sonata receives a newly-designed 5-speed manual transmission or an optional version of the automatic without adaptive logic.

Hyundai's suspension system works well in normal conditions. Drive it hard on curvy roads and it has a slight lean on turns. At the

same time, we were impressed by the quietness of the Sonata's ride.

The Sonata features a highly rigid new unibody structure that is both strong and lightweight.

Stopping power is excellent with four-wheel disc brakes. There is an optional package that combines four-channel anti-lock braking system (ABS) with traction control. It wasn't provided on the test car, but if we were buying it would be a must.

The interior is well thought out. It uses the two stalks off the adjustable steering column for the major controls, headlights, turn signals, and windshield wiper/washer.

The cruise control switches are located on the steering wheel.

Analog gauges provide the information needed by the driver and include fuel and temperature, speed,

and tachometer.

Despite the optional leather package, we found the interior somewhat gray in appearance. The bland color is broken up by faux wood trim on the instrument panel and doors. Unfortunately the plastic wood looks like it is suffering from Dutch elm disease.

The front bucket seats are comfortable and supportive. We were pleasantly surprised by the rear bench seat. There is enough room for three, though two would be more comfortable and head and leg room.

The rear seat also folds forward to increase storage space in the already spacious trunk. The air conditioner/heater are simple to operate and are placed high on the dash, while the AM/FM radio/CD is too low to be operated safely by the driver while under way. The sound system's

tone is excellent.

Base price for the GLS V-6 model is \$17,799 and this includes a long list of standard features including power windows and doors along with power outside mirrors, digital quartz clock, center console with double storage boxes and dual cup holders, map pockets in the doors, cargo area lamp, dash-mounted ignition switch, a 12-volt DC auxiliary power outlet, and remote releases for the trunk hood and fuel door.

In our opinion the Sonata is a bargain. Quality is up and the riding, performance and handling improved over earlier models. Take a look for yourself.

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The 9-5 Wagon holds up under tough scrutiny to win the AAA Top Car award. Automotive critics are tough. So you should take note of the new Saab 9-5 Wagon, winner of the AAA Top Car award for the \$35,000 to \$40,000 category. ** Impressive, since the category includes sedans and SUVs. Along with safety and versatility features, this new Saab has a turbo engine for performance you might not expect from a wagon. No wonder the judges were impressed.

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Problematic GM Quad 4 persistent

Dear Doctor: I own a 1993 Pontiac Grand Am 2.4-liter Quad 4 engine. Within a year, I had to replace the engine because of a cracked cylinder head. Two years later, I decided to replace the spark plugs and broke one off trying to remove it. Sometime later during a tune up, the same spark plug broke again. The shop tried to drill out the spark plug and broke the drill bit in the spark plug. They said the head had to come off at a cost of \$800. I took the car to another shop and they were able to get the broken plug out. The engine started, smoke emitted from the tail pipe and the engine was tapping. The shop said the head or head gasket was at fault, probably from over-heating the engine. Another engine seems to be my only option. What should I do? Phyllis

Ask the Auto Doc

By Junior Damato



Junior Damato

"A replacement engine is a good choice if you want to keep the car..."

brakes to wear in. It did not pull before the service. What's wrong? John

Dear John: When a car pulls to one side when the brakes are applied, there could be a problem with one caliper sticking. In your case, the right caliper may not be pushing as hard as the left when braking hard. The reason could be that when the calipers are compressed inward, there is a slight ridge and sometimes rust builds up in the caliper piston cylinder. As the brake pads wear down, the piston will travel past the ridge area and the pulling should stop, if this is in fact the problem.

is overheating dangerous?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1989 Eagle Premier 3.0-liter V6 with 89,000 miles which I purchased new. While driving on a hot day, the temperature warning light came on. I pulled off the road, opened the hood and the electric cooling fan was not on. I waited awhile and restarted the engine and the cooling fan did come on. This problem has occurred three times. I am afraid if the engine overheats, it will do internal damage. What can you suggest? Vern

Dear Vern: The Eagle Premier and Dodge Monaco are not on my favorite list of cars. Before you do anything, you need to determine if the engine was actually running hot. If it was, get a wire diagram of the cooling fan circuit. See what turns the cooling fan on. If there is a 2 wire coolant fan sensor in the radiator, it may need replacement. You can always hook up a separate toggle switch to turn the fan on manually if needed. Parts are sometimes hard to find for these models. There are adjustable universal coolant fan

See AUTO DOC, Page D5



IN 1933, Henry Ford's son, Edsel, wanted an "Indy-type" vehicle. Eugene T. "Bob" Gregorie, who would become Ford's chief stylist in 1935, was tapped to design a car for the son. The result is pictured here in all its streamlined glory.

PARKER PHOTO

Edsel's 1934 'Indy Ford' shines anew

"A blown engine is what saved its life," Bill Warner says of his one-of-a-kind car. Before it was Warner's, it was Edsel Ford's in 1934.

In 1933, Henry Ford's son, Edsel, wanted an "Indy-type" vehicle. Eugene T. "Bob" Gregorie, who would become Ford's chief stylist in 1935, was tapped to design a car for the son. He and Edsel were design soulmates, so the task, undertaken in the old Ford Trimotor airplane assembly unit at Dearborn airport, was easily accomplished.

The younger Ford expressed his dream car to Gregorie, who then went on to make the wish come true. The aluminum-skinned car was as aerodynamic as it got in 1934. The aluminum was wrapped around the usually exposed front suspension pieces. What at first glance appear to be cycle fenders are in reality shrouded aluminum coverings for the wheels. When new, metal discs covered the 32-spoke wheels holding the 6.50x17-inch tires.

To aid in streamlining, the aluminum body wrapped under the car into a belly pan. Unfortunately, the design resulted in overheating the V8 engine. A two-piece grille was designed and fitted onto the nose to allow the engine to breathe easier. A

Classic Classics

By Vern Parker



Vern Parker

"The aluminum-skinned car was as aerodynamic as it got in 1934..."

long row of 50 louvers on either side of the engine hood assist in controlling the heat.

Edsel Ford died in 1943, and five years later, the car was advertised for sale. It resurfaced in 1958 when John Pallasch found it on the back of a used car lot in Pensacola, Fla. He bought it for \$603, tax included. Shortly before his death, Edsel Ford had replaced the original flathead V8 engine with an updated 1940 engine. After his death, a powerful Mercury 90 flathead V8 was installed with dual carburetors and Edelbrock heads.

"It threw a water pump belt and overheated in 1960," Warner explains. "That's when the car was put away to be repaired later, and later

never came."

In the mid-1990s, Warner was breathing life into the Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance to benefit Hospice Northeast. Always on the lookout for unusual and significant cars for the show, Warner heard of the vehicle known as Edsel's Special. He traced several leads to the car where it's been garaged in Deland, Fla., for the last 38 years. "I felt like Indiana Jones," Warner says.

The owner was invited to display the car at the Amelia Island event, but the offer was declined. "I want to sell it," the owner said. Warner hadn't gone looking to buy the car, but when the opportunity presented itself, he bit. As the car was being unloaded in Jacksonville, a neighbor, Royce Wileman, came to observe the operation and inquire about the unusual car. After listening to Warner's explanation — concluding with the blown engine — Wileman surprised Warner by saying, "I guess I'll have to sell you my 1940 Ford engine."

As unbelievable as it sounds, he had an original 1940 Ford flathead V8 engine still in the crate in which it was shipped. The brand new 59-year-old engine was installed in the car and according to Warner, it fired after being cranked twice.

Next came the fun part. "59-year-old cars have seventy years of dirt in them," Warner explained, cleaning his new-old Edsel's Special. As fond of the '34 Edsel Special as he is, Warner says, regarding the speedometer, "It couldn't do 100 if it were dropped from the sky shuttle."

Running through the grain of car accelerates, an obviously new Warner shouts over the wind. Steps right out for an old gent, mechanical brakes easily bring the ton aluminum car to a stop. The originally was painted gun metal, but it has since been painted red.

Plans for the car do not include restoration. It's still close enough to the original condition that Warner doesn't want to tamper with it. He does plan to show the car at several national events, the Meadowbrook in Michigan in August.

For now, Warner is more content in the knowledge that he has a rare piece of automotive history.

If you have an antique car or want to test to "Classic Classics" reader, write to Vern Parker detailing its merits. (Please, no inquiries about selling or buying vehicles.) His address: 2221 Abbotts Drive, Vienna, VA 22181

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NISSAN XTERRA 2WD.

Xterra

FROM PAGE D1

actly what a true SUV is built to provide.

Xterra's four-wheel drive is only part-time, so it won't enhance dry pavement driving like the more expensive full-time or on-demand systems. And although it does have shift-on-the-fly capability, the 4WD was finicky to shift into and sometimes required stopping before engaging. However, once engaged, the 4WD shifted smoothly with both the four-speed manual and the four-speed automatic transmissions. As usual, gearing is considerably smaller than an automatic, so the manual makes a better choice for an off-highway vehicle.

Xterra uses the Nissan Frontier pickup truck's ladder-on-frame chassis rather than the unibody design of car-like SUVs. It has a double wishbone front suspension and solid rear axle with leaf springs. Even with a solid, truck-based skeleton, Xterra's on-road ride was surprisingly soft. The 3.3-liter V6 wasn't built for Indy speeds, but its 170 horses providing and trail crawling. Wind and engine noise, although noticeable, was low-pitched and subdued.

Nissan calls Xterra design "rough hewn rather than smoothly integrated. It looks functional, tough and affordable." However, that rough style is unique and attractive.

Built on Frontier's 4x4 pickup platform, Xterra shows the hard bull nose of a small truck. The roof line steps up over rear passenger and cargo areas for more interior head room. Rear doors use the same uniquely integrated door handles as

the Pathfinder. An asymmetrical rear liftback incorporates the impression of a jerry can where it houses a first-aid kit. The full-size spare tire is slung underneath for additional interior space and safer rear views.

The beefy tubular roof rack is an eye-catching addition. Rated for up to 125 pounds, the adjustable cross bars are available with accessories for hauling mountain bikes, kayaks, surfboards, etc. A special front basket attaches for carrying up to 30 pounds of gear like wet suits or muddy boots. Be aware that the sunroof can't open when the roof basket is attached.

Inside, the Xterra is appropriately functional and unglamorous. Cloth seats and lightweight plastic components were designed for low cost utility. However, seating is comfortable, a raised rear bench gives backseaters a view out the front, and all the basic amenities are provided with a fine eye toward ease and use.

The Nissan Xterra is available this June in both 2WD and 4WD models. But let's face it, Xterra was designed without apologies as an off-roader — so you're going to want the 4WD version. Expect prices for an Xterra 4x4 with V6 engine to start around \$21,000 and rise to about \$25,000 with all the options. Prices which allow Xterra to compete easily with Isuzu Rodeo, Chevy Blazer, and Jeep Cherokee.

Nissan wanted to get back to basics and their new 2000 Xterra is the satisfying result. Nothing pretentious — just a true, solid SUV.

Lincoln

FROM PAGE D1

den of fancy international nameplates, including Aston-Martin, Jaguar and Volvo. Lincoln is the only homegrown luxury division. It faces the disconcerting process of a self-limiting market. That's what happens when your average buyer is perking along through the Medicare years.

Lincoln's domestic competitor, Cadillac, has tried shifting its image with a Caddy that "zigs." This is the Catera, a pleasant enough variation on General Motors' European Opel Omega. The image overhaul, however, has been at best a moderate success.

Lincoln-Mercury decided against simply rearranging the furniture and accenting with new throw pillows. It has gone for an in-depth cultural change. For example, Lincoln-Mercury's division headquarters moved to southern California. Out from under both the gray January skies of

Detroit, and the shadow of parental Ford.

Every major carmaker in the world (except for GM) has a design presence in California. Arguably California is the car culture capital of the world. That's where it's happening and that is where Lincoln-Mercury landed with the move occurring between July and September, 1998.

The first model launched from the new digs, the Lincoln LS, shares some genetic similarities with company cousin the Jaguar S-type. How the launch occurred is a vibrant indication of the company's new direction.

The LS's introduction to the automotive press began in San Francisco, a city whose urbane sophistication Lincoln sees as a match for its new LS luxury/sport sedan. There on Treasure Island, a patch of land created out of the Bay for the 1939 World's Fair, Lincoln put together a singularly elaborate exhibition and show space called "The LS Experience." The exhibit environment and presentations were directed not at the press, though they let us experience it, but at Lincoln dealers. And it was not the usual

sales ballyhoo, but a concerted effort to begin the cultural change where the public would first experience it, at the dealership.

The LS is not a smaller Town Car or Continental, it is an entirely new market for Lincoln and will appeal to a different population of drivers; younger, more active, more driving-is fun oriented, and to buyers used to the customer-is-king approach made standard by the likes of Lexus.

Among the dealer personnel represented in the some 600 per day through the well-ordered program were not just management or sales people, but representatives from every aspect of the dealership — back-office folks, service people, receptionists.

A true cultural change requires a saturation beyond anything the company had ever done before.

The attendees walked through a great round tunnel leading from the main building into smart spaces created in a huge hangar. (Treasure Island was a naval installation from World War II until recently.)

Lining the tunnel were cultural

artifacts of contemporary luxury life — a cell phone, a hand-held computer, a book, a pen, athletic shoes, skis, a chair. All quite particular. Taken all together they created a mosaic portrait of a prospective Lincoln LS buyer.

Almost by osmosis (as well as overt video tapes and talk), the dealers learned that the LS is a new type of Lincoln for a new type of buyer. A buyer drawn to the European luxury touring tradition, but looking for a distinctly American expression of it.

The LS Experience was devised to introduce to the dealers these new-to-Lincoln buyers and to help the dealers understand how the artifacts and circumstances of that buyer's life has led to certain expectations and requirements for satisfaction.

The LS Experience is now on the road visiting 24 additional cities to touch more Lincoln dealerships. Serious cultural change is afoot here. Or should one say *awheel*?

Outback

FROM PAGE D2

Safety enhancements in the Outback are led by the new ring-shaped reinforcement frame. This uses the A, B, C and D pillars on the Outback to create a skeletal safety cage for the vehicle, similar to the roll cages in race cars. The safety cage

helps to reinforce the skin of the Outback. It also improves the torsional rigidity of the Outback.

Subaru engineers say the torsional rigidity improvement means that twisting of the body is reduced by 20 percent. Less body twisting means that there is less tendency for wheels to twist off the ground. This helps to stabilize the wheels and keep them firmly on the ground, especially when going through tight,

twisting turns.

Chief comfort improvement in the Outback is the new seats, including for the first time ever in this vehicle a power driver's seat. Compared to the seats in the '99 Outback, the new seats support the back better and result in less tiredness even after all day in the car.

Overall, there is nothing revolutionary in the 2000 Outback, but it is virtually an all-new car. Masaro

Katsurada of Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., Subaru's parent company, and engineering project leader for the

Outback, says only 20 percent of the 2000 vehicle's parts are carried over from the previous model. Instead of attempting to create a revolutionary change, Katsurada and his team have created a series of evolutionary improvements that make a good vehicle even better.

Auto Doc

FROM PAGE D4

switches that will work. Do not continue to drive with the engine overheating.

Why is my Civic grumbling?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1994 Honda Civic DX with 66,000 miles. The engine has a deep grumbling sound. I went to the dealership and they checked the car and found the oil was overfilled by half a quart. With the correct amount, however, the noise is still there. I am afraid the noise will turn into something bigger down the road. Any suggestions? Kathy

Dear Kathy: A grumbling sound may not be from the internal part of

the engine. I would suggest you find a shop that will take the time to look for the source of your Civic's noise. The use of a theta scope or electronic chassis ear will lead the technician to the source of the noise. A loose fan belt or belt driven accessory, partly collapsed exhaust pipe, misfitting air filter housing, and worn engine mount are just a few items that could cause strange noises.

Can I tweak voltage regulator?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1994 Ford van with 106,000 miles. The volt meter indicates 15 volts with the engine running. This was verified with 2 other digital voltmeters at 15.2 volts with the a/c and lights on. Is this harmful to the electrical system? Is there an adjustment on the voltage regulator? Dennis

Dear Dennis: Your charging sys-

tem is quite high, in fact 13.7-15.2 is the norm. Continuous 15 volts is too high. Overcharging will burn out the battery and lights, and can damage the computer, radio and other electric devices. You did not mention what the voltage was with the accessories off. If your van has an external regulator, replace it first, if not, you will need to replace the alternator with an internal regulator. The battery condition should also be checked.

Put the brakes on guessing

Dear Doctor: I own a 1994 Ford Airstar Van which I purchased new. Currently it has 94,300 miles. The rear anti-lock brake light came on in March. The dealer said the problem was the master fluid reservoir float switch. They replaced the reservoir, but two months later the light came

on again. Back to the dealer; they checked it out and said the reservoir was the problem again and replaced it at no charge. Are they guessing at the problem, or could the problem have been a defective part? Peter

Dear Peter: I would say the dealer did the right service. I personally replace a lot of master fluid reservoirs on Ford vehicles for faulty float level switches. The problem expands farther out, not only in the car business, but all types of products. I see a lot of new automotive parts that are defective upon installation and also wear out prematurely.

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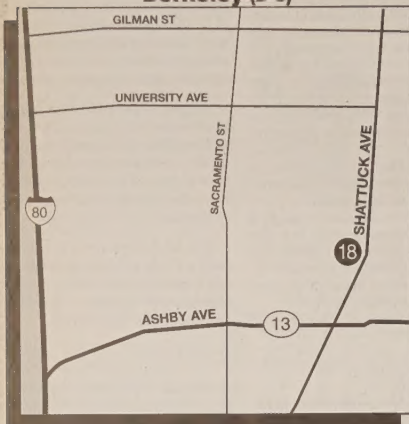
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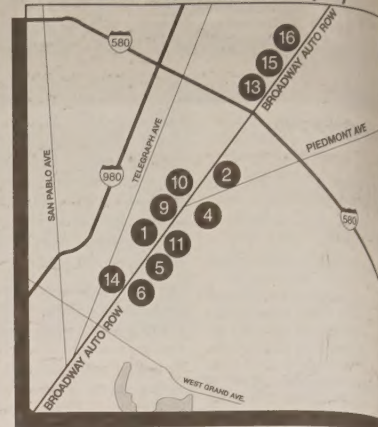
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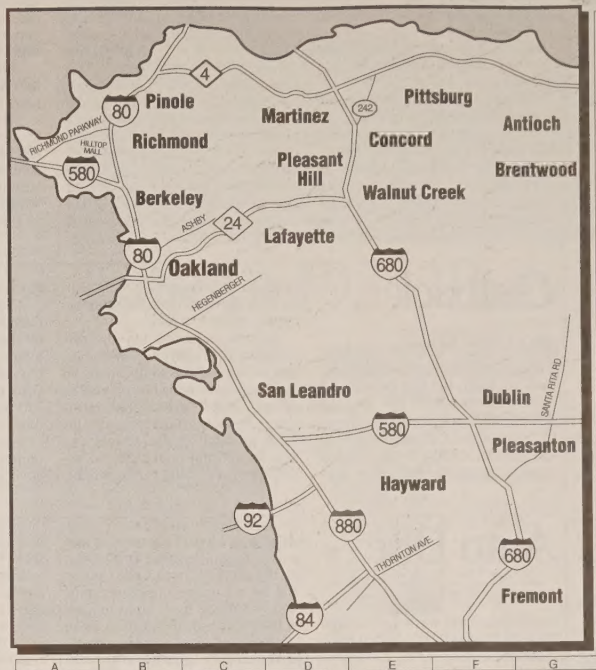
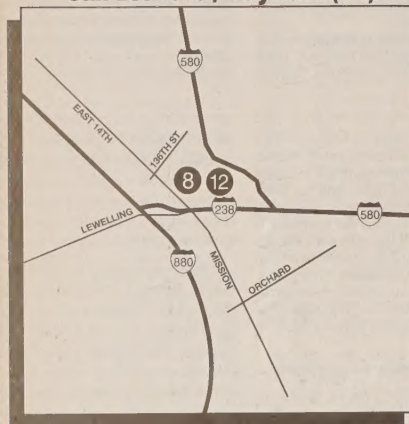
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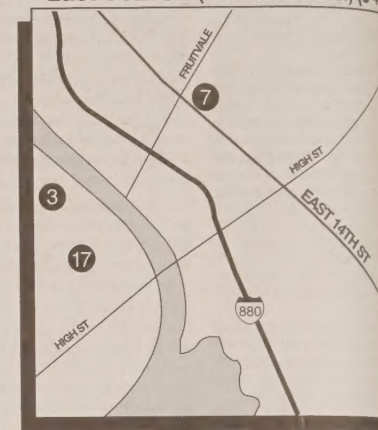
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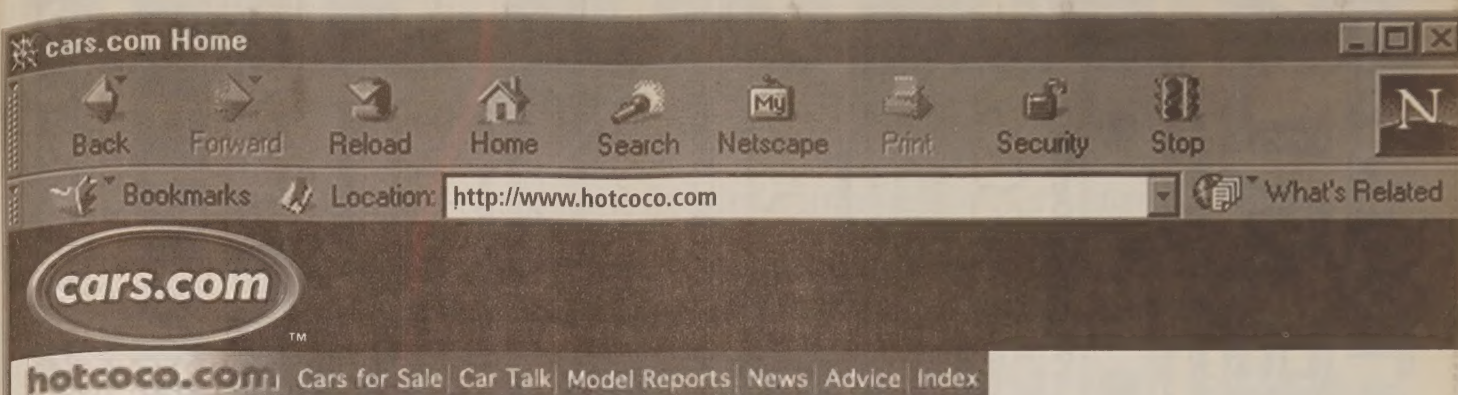
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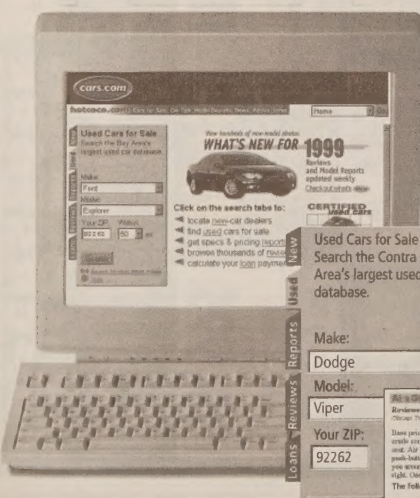
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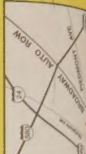
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